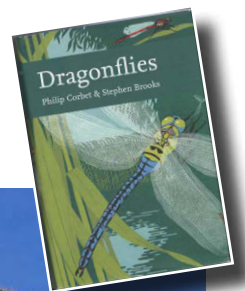


# Dragonfly News 167

***The Magazine of the British Dragonfly Society***  
***Spring 2015***

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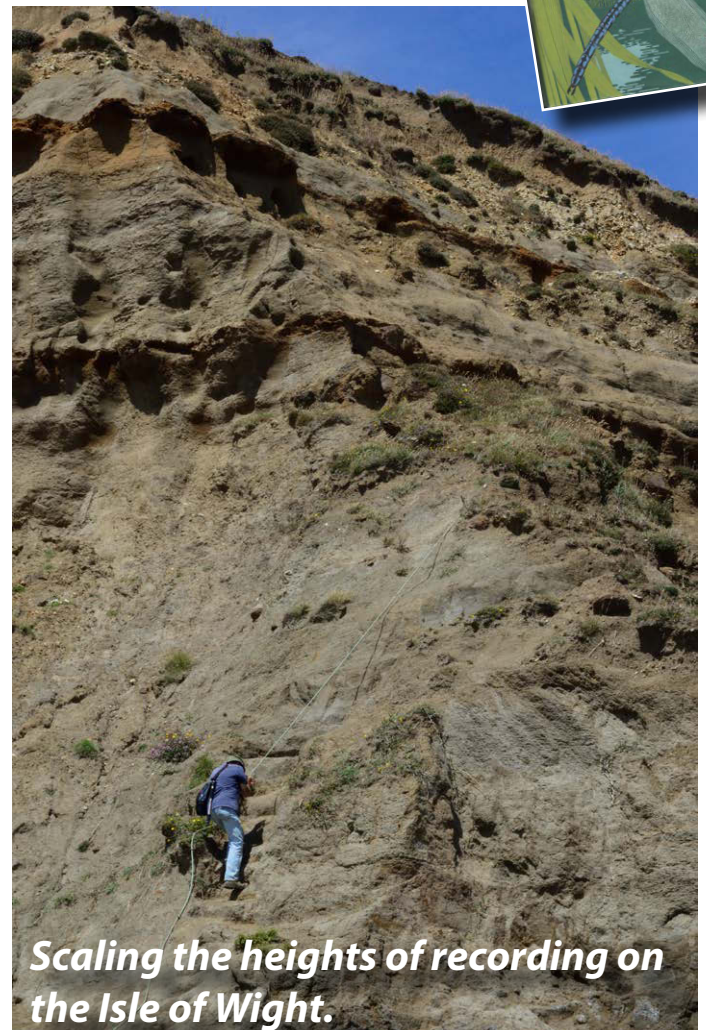


***Dragonflies of RUGA national park  
in Brazil...***



***...the world's best site?***

***BDS Annual Meetings & Field Events***



***Scaling the heights of recording on  
the Isle of Wight.***

# Dragonfly News 67

The Magazine of the British Dragonfly Society

Published twice a year, in April and October, *Dragonfly News* covers all aspects of the British Dragonfly Society's field, recording, monitoring, research, conservation and social activities, as well as information from the wider dragonfly, natural history and conservation world. The emphasis is on dragonflies recorded in the UK.

The British Dragonfly Society aims to promote and encourage the study, conservation and understanding of dragonflies and their natural habitats, especially in the UK, and to raise public awareness of dragonflies.

**Dragonfly News** is edited & designed by:

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\* An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue

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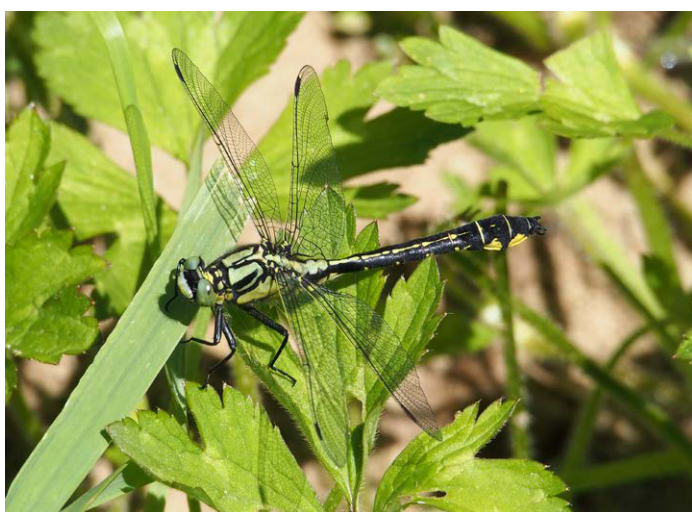
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## A Society that needs a leader



**Henry Curry**

Since the last issue of Dragonfly News we have sadly parted company with our new President. David Chelmick was not in post for very long, but he decided that he was not suited to be the chairman of the Board of Trustees, a role which goes hand in hand with that of President. So, reluctantly, we agreed that we should seek a new President again. This is very unfortunate bearing in mind all the good work achieved during David's very short term of office. Once again we have no President or Vice-President, and this puts an additional burden on the already hard-pressed Board. Add to this the forthcoming 'retirement' of both our Treasurer and Convenor of DCG and you will understand my extreme concern. However, it's not all gloom for the Board at the moment - on the Trustee front, we are now looking a little more healthy, with potential candidates in the pipeline both this year and next.

Our Records Officer, Stephen Prentice, who has been working for us on a part-time basis since formal retirement last year, will finally relinquish his post in May. I am sure all those who know or have worked with Steve over the years in all the many activities involved in recording, and especially processing data more recently for the marvellous Atlas, will want to wish Steve well in the future. The Trustees are now looking at how we can

carry on the good work that has been started and keep harvesting and managing the data from all our many recorders. Please don't forget that this is your Society so we always welcome suggestions and ideas around the way you would like to see this operate. I hardly need say that recording is the lifeblood of the Society, it's what made all that fantastic work in the Atlas possible. We need to maintain the momentum, build on all the data gathered so far, and make sure that interpretations of trends are backed by ongoing recording.

You'll see on page 7 that we have a photo competition to win a signed copy of Dragonflies by Corbet and Brooks, and I'd really like to see this side of the Society developing. With the amazingly rapid growth in availability of superb digital cameras it's not surprising that we regularly see excellent wildlife pictures. Some new members I was able to meet for the first time this year have come to the Society through photography, and I am sure there are many more. The quality of dragonfly photos is just stunning!

Once again can I remind you all that we will soon need to find further key people as the terms of office of both our Treasurer (Brian Walker) and the DCG Convener (Dave Smallshire) come to an end this year. As I said last year, Brian and Dave have performed excellent service for us over a considerable period and have put in a huge amount of effort for the Society. They have loyally given us their time and agreed to stay until replacements can be found, but that situation can only be temporary.

After what I hope you'll agree was a very successful Annual Meeting last year, at the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust Centre in London, we are now shifting this year's focus to a relatively new facility in Suffolk, a county we've never visited for this event. The modern campus in Ipswich, right on the waterfront, should provide a stylish and professional venue for the meeting. We are gathering speakers for November but there's still time to suggest a person or topic that you think will fit the bill! And looking further ahead to 2016 we are looking at a number of midlands venues. Again, if you have contacts or know of a site worthy of our attentions, please get in touch.

## Meet the Trustees

Our Society is run by enthusiastic volunteers with a passion for dragonflies, but who are the people behind the BDS? Here are profiles of our Treasurer, Brian Walker and Ordinary Trustee Stuart Irons.



### Brian Walker - Treasurer

I am a Chartered Mechanical Engineer who became a bird watcher while at school and gradually developed an interest in other wildlife. I was drawn into the dragonfly community when I bumped into someone looking at Variable Damselflies at Hatchmere in Cheshire and was recruited to help with the Cheshire Atlas and subsequently into the BDS. I moved to Oxfordshire and became more involved while retaining my broader interests.

### Stuart Irons - Ordinary Trustee

From a very early age I was always interested in wildlife and insects in particular but never really found a focus until one evening in November 1992 when I became completely hooked on dragonflies following an inspirational talk by Ruary Mackenzie-Dodds. I became a volunteer at the Dragonfly Project and joined the BDS. I have run a dragonfly identification course for beginners every year since 1997, given presentations and led dragonfly walks for groups ranging from local natural history societies to the WI. But my favourite place to be is sitting quietly on the bank of a river or lake watching the never-ending dramas in the lives of our dragonflies.



# From the Conservation Officer



## Claire Install

It is the start of February as I am writing this article; it will not be long until the first dragonflies will be emerging and there are already a few signs of Spring showing with snowdrops in places and the nights are gradually becoming lighter. People often think that this time of year is the quiet time of year for me, but there is no such thing! I have been kept very busy working on our grant deliverables for Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as well as answering a wide variety of queries from a Welsh government consultation on their draft Nature Recovery Plan, to planting advice for a pond, to a spreadsheet detailing current and new actions needed for Norfolk Hawker and Southern Damselfly and much more... there is never a dull moment! I would like to tell you a bit about some of the projects that I have been involved with and let you know about some of the resources that are (or will soon be) available.

As I type, there is a digger in Wales restoring Southern Damselfly habitat in the Preseli SAC. This has been made possible through funding that I gained from Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership. We are restoring three sites and I would like to thank Stephen and Anne Coker, Geraint Jones, Jon Hudson and Ant Rogers for making this work possible. The first bit of site work is a continuation of work that we did in 2012 on Brynberian Moor. The work involved manipulation of a stream course to return water to a length of dried up flush that was previously known to be a very good Southern Damselfly flush. In addition to this work, two existing streams were also worked on and a variety of techniques were used to open up the channel where it had become "piped" (roofed over with vegetation and turf). Numerous sections along a 500m stretch were opened up in

a variety of ways to create shallow, wide watercourses where Southern Damselfly habitat will be able to develop. The stream had become piped as a result of a lack of grazing by heavy animals and the consequent encroachment of scrub which resulted in unsuitable habitat for the Southern Damselfly. In the flight season following the work, Southern Damselflies were observed mating at the site, so we felt fairly confident that the digger methods used were correct to recreate this species' habitat. The work that is being carried out now is an extension of the work in 2012 and more piped sections of the streams will be manipulated by the digger to restore the flushes that were once present. Work is being done at another site to raise a buried stream and at another site to remove silt and reduce the effects of agricultural run-off.

Looking at the Southern Damselfly in England, David Chelmick raised awareness of a failed pump at one of the Southern Damselflies sites in Dorset. This had resulted in the breeding site drying out. We will have to wait until next summer to assess the effects of this but in the meantime the pump has been fixed. Natural England are fully aware of this situation and this highlights the need for regular visits to ensure that our very best sites and rarest species are protected and any threats identified and dealt with. I hope we were not too late for this population.

I usually plan my site visits for the dragonfly flight season but this year, due to a very busy summer, I had a few winter site visits. This was for part of our NRW grant work. I mentioned some advisory visits to key sites in the last edition of Dragonfly News. Along with Keith Noble (Breconshire VCR) and Bob Dennison (Radnorshire VCR), I have identified three further key sites where we may be able to give some advice to improve the habitat or awareness of dragonflies.

The first day of site visits was with Keith Noble, it was foggy, so foggy that I could not see the Brecon Beacons, even though I was in them, so Keith had to describe the view that I should have been seeing! Nonetheless, it was great to be out on some fantastic sites for dragonflies. The first site we visited was Llangorse Lake and we were joined by Norman Lowe (Chair of the Llangorse Lake Advisory Group, and the Discover

Llangorse and Bwlch Group). Llangorse Lake is a glacial lake formed thousands of years ago. It is the largest natural lake in South Wales with a circumference of 5 miles and is one mile long. It is a popular place with people looking for wildlife as well as boating enthusiasts and anglers, therefore any management suggestions would need to take into account all users and wildlife at the lake. There is also plenty of historical interest at the lake. It has a wide range of plants and animals in including at least 18 species of dragonfly and hosts the largest area of reedbeds in inland Wales. It is designated as a SAC as it is a natural eutrophic lake with Monopotamion or Hydrocharition – type vegetation.

We walked around the south western circumference of the lake from St Gastyn's Church until the high water level prevented us from walking further, and then walked to the east of the church to look at the drainage ditches and also visited the Lakeside area with visitor facilities, activity centre and Crannog. Not all of the shoreline was accessible as some is privately owned and high water levels covered parts of the footpath. It was clear from the visit that the lake is well managed where possible for wildlife with many species / taxon interests including birds (with ringing and a great hide built by the Prince's Trust), moths, dragonflies and more catered for. Water Voles have also recently been released in the area.

There are currently efforts being put into promoting the area for tourism. Llangorse Lake has some great new interpretation boards. We discussed the potential for producing an interpretation board or leaflet about the dragonflies of Llangorse Lake. Any habitat improvement recommendation will need to be thoroughly discussed with the lake's Advisory Group and National Park staff to ensure that they will not adversely affect other wildlife interest. We have suggested that some ditches could be cleared to create another type of habitat adjacent to the lake. Keith is also going to search for Hairy Dragonfly and Variable Damselfly exuviae so that we can see if we can make improvements for these species. Keith found and photographed Hairy Dragonflies at the lake in 2014 after a 50 year absence in the records, so it would be great to locate exactly where





this species is breeding.

After a quick visit to the Mountain Centre, we headed to Mynydd Illtyd Common, which is about 5 miles south west of Brecon as the crow flies. Mynydd Illtyd Common is open access land managed by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA). Within the common, there are several pools which are good sites for dragonflies. On our visit, we wanted to look at Camlais stream and Traeth Bach pool. Camlais stream is a great stream, it varies along its length, it has a stone substrate but parts of this are covered in water plants. Walking the first 100m of Camlais stream from the road bridge can give rewarding dragonfly sightings in the flight season. Beyond this, there are dangerous areas of bog with thin layers of vegetation covering deep pools. We could not think of any management to improve on the stream for Odonata.

Traeth Bach is a great pool with *Sphagnum* moss, islands in the pool and rushes and grasses growing out of the pool. There are currently discussions about managing the pool. Some people think that more ponies should be put out to graze the grass and rushes. Keith has been told that historically, more ponies

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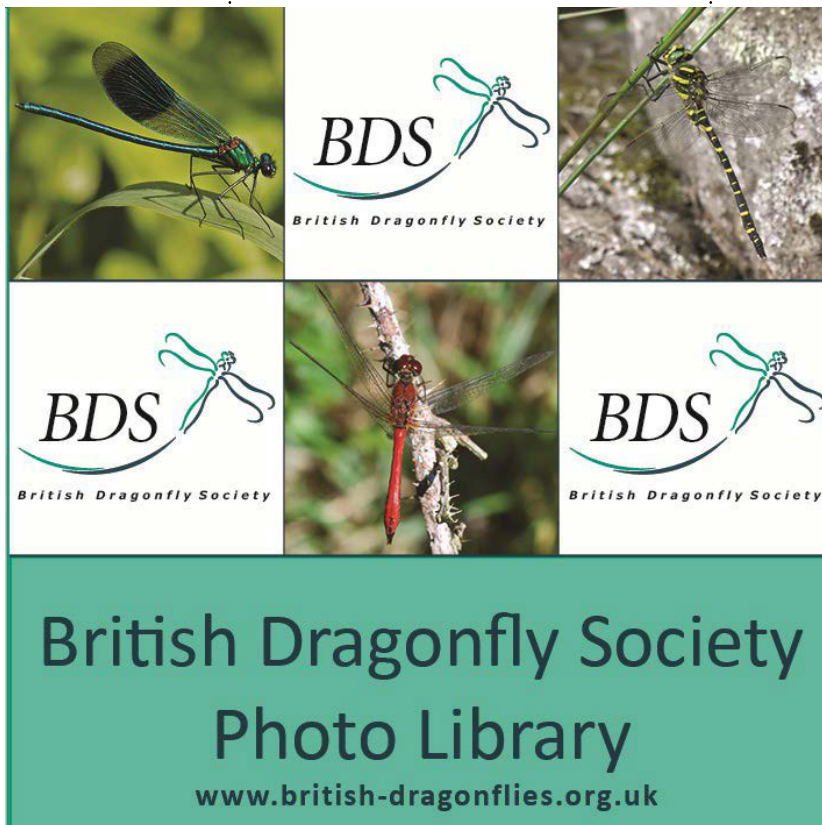
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grazed the site. In the summer the water level will be lower, so the area of open water will be smaller and there is likely to be more vegetation in the form of rushes and grasses growing out of the pool. For this reason, Keith and I were inclined to support the argument for more grazing to maintain some open water in the summer.



I met up with Bob Dennison and Rhys Jenkins (Reserve Manager, NRW) on a cold, crisp and sunny December morning at Cors y Llyn. The site is approximately 2km south of Newbridge on Wye, it is classified as a SSSI and is also a National Nature Reserve, these classifications are due to both biological and geological features. The site as a whole is a mosaic of different habitats. Within the site is one of the finest examples in Britain of a 'Schwingmoor', which is a raft of *Sphagnum* moss floating on water. There is a pond to the north of the mire. NRW own the land adjacent to the site and are managing it sensitively as well as blocking up any drains coming off the site and also controlling any water flowing onto the bog to ensure that it is low in nutrients. One area that may be of concern is a stand of reedmae in the pool to the north of the Schwingmoor, this may be an indication of nutrient enrichment and also, if unchecked, it could become quite invasive. We

recommended that the hydrology near to the reedmae is investigated to see if there are any nutrients entering the site; also the reedmae should be either removed completely or managed on an annual basis to ensure that it does not become too dominant.

David Kitching, our Cheshire VCR, has compiled a photo library of males and females of all resident and migrant species. Photographers have kindly given permission for their photos to be used to promote the BDS or dragonflies in not-for-profit ways so long as they are credited. Sourcing the photos took a considerable amount of time and effort, but it is a great resource for anyone giving dragonfly talks or running events. I have already had several requests for copies of it.

Daniele and I have produced some management advice sheets as part of our work for SNH. These are available from the BDS website. They are designed for land managers who may not know much about dragonflies. There are four in total, one on the Brilliant Emerald dragonfly, one on the Northern Emerald and two on ponds, one is a yearly planner of pond management and the other is about using ponds as community and educational resources.

Finally, I have been advising the BRC and CEH on the production of a dragonfly app, iRecord Dragonfly, for android devices that should be ready soon (or may already be released when this reaches you). The BRC have already released excellent apps on butterflies and ladybirds. The dragonfly app has ID features, photos, distribution maps and a recording facility and promises to be a really useful tool. **DN**

**Above: Cover of the BDS Photo Library.**



# InBox

The Editor welcomes your letters and e-mails.



## Cynthia Longfield Certificate 2014

In 2013, the British Dragonfly Society instigated the Cynthia Longfield Certificate. This is an award presented to the member who, in the opinion of the Trustees, has made a significant contribution in educating the general public about dragonflies. The British Dragonfly Society is very pleased to announce that the 2014 winner of the award is Steve Jones. Over the last two years he has done an amazing job in Cornwall, educating the public about dragonflies in his own modest and hard-working way, proving to be an inspiration to all that work with him. This award is richly deserved.

The Trustees will present this award to Steve in person at the Recorders' Day meeting in the spring, but felt it was appropriate that Steve learned of his award on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at the AGM of the Red River Rescuers volunteer conservation group (<http://redriverrescuers.weebly.com>) - where Steve is joint co-ordinator - so that all the volunteers could share in this national recognition.



## A letter from our Patron, Sir David Attenborough

Dear Henry,

Thank you very much  
for sending me the latest  
Dragonfly publication.  
I am delighted to  
have them.

Best wishes

David Attenborough

from David Attenborough

## Southern Hawker larvae hatching query

Southern Hawkers in my garden pond oviposit into the pondside moss and I would like to know if it is known how far the larvae can travel to reach water after hatching.

Any information on this would be gratefully received.

Peter Hunt

**Notice is hereby  
given that the 28th  
Annual General  
Meeting of the  
British Dragonfly  
Society will be held  
on 14 November  
2015 at University  
Campus Suffolk. See  
page 36 for more  
details.**



## Maintaining a recording tradition in Fenland. Help required

Most of you will know about the Great Fen Project at Woodwalton (near Peterborough) and the Wicken Vision at Wicken fen (between Ely and Cambridge). Both are ambitious 100-year schemes to bring very large areas of existing fen farmland back to wetland. If you're a dragonfly, of course that means more habitat will gradually return.

Norman Moore, very conscious of the importance of watching how dragonfly populations change over time, took on the task of recording dragonfly numbers and species at a number of points in the new lands of both schemes as they began - and continued - slowly to revert.

As a result of Norman's work - plus his previous records at both places - and that of a handful of loyal followers since, Woodwalton Fen and Wicken Fen are probably the longest recorded dragonfly sites in the country, and it's important that the BDS continue this work.

What's needed is thrice-seasonal visits on calm sunny days to sites originally specified by Norman. In other words, a visit near the start of the dragonfly flying season, one in the middle and one near the end.

The work is not arduous and Norman only recorded adults, so it does not involve larval identification skills.

So if you like the idea of an occasional walk in fenland under vast fen skies, following very pleasant routes, checking dykes for dragonfly activity, and making notes of what you see, perhaps even with photos, you would be making a serious contribution.

We'd be delighted to hear from you. Even a single visit will help, if you can spare the time.

If you feel you'd like to get involved, do please contact the Secretary Henry Curry for Wicken or Mick Parfitt [redacted] for Woodwalton.

**Henry Curry**  
[redacted]

## A note from the Membership Office

Hi, I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the new dragonfly season. It is the time of year for you to renew your membership of the BDS, (the membership year runs from the 1st April to the 31st March each year).

There are now 3 ways that you can pay your membership fee:

- On our web site using credit / debit card or PayPal. Just follow the link for membership renewal, please remember to quote your membership number if possible.
- By cheque - If you pay annually by cheque please could you complete and return the enclosed membership renewal form to me, together with your membership fee.
- If you pay by standing order you need to take no action yourself (but you could pass the form on to a friend who may wish to join the society!)

If you are unsure whether you already have a standing order in place, please contact me before you send any money and I will check your details on the database.

If you would like to set up a standing order, please could you complete all of the enclosed membership renewal form and return it to me. Please remember to quote your membership number if possible.

Please also remember to keep me informed of change of postal or e-mail address.

If you have any membership queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

In the unlikely event of your wishing to leave the society, please let me know. This will prevent the extra expense of sending you an unnecessary reminder letter.

Thank you

**Lynn Curry**  
[redacted]

## A New Dragonfly Recording App

The BDS has been helping the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to develop an innovative app that will enable dragonflies to be recorded on smart phones and tablets, either in the field or at home. Unlike other apps, this will be used via a web address (URL), which may be a page on the Society's website. It is expected that this will go live in the spring.

The records will go directly to the Biological Records Centre, which hosts both our website and the dragonfly records database. The records will be subject to the usual validation procedures. After Steve Prentice retires in May it is anticipated that BRC will take care of our database. This marks a further step into a future that will see on-line record submission as the norm.

Please keep an eye open for an announcement about the app on our home page, and PLEASE do use the app to enter your records this season. Please send any feedback through Dave Smallshire (for contact details, see inside front cover).

**Dave Smallshire**



## Paul-André Robert and his life's work on dragonfly larvae

The Swiss painter and dragonfly researcher Paul-André Robert (1901-1977) is well known in Europe for his book "Les Libellules" that was published in 1959. However, what is less well known is that Paul-André began work on a monumental monograph on European dragonfly larvae at the age of sixteen. The manuscript, which consists of texts and illustrations, consumed most of his life and was only just completed at the time of his death.

After several failed posthumous attempts there is now a great opportunity for this work to be published as a significant collectors' item.

The main focus of this magnificent work will be the 107 water colour illustrations of larvae which are of incredible beauty and scientific precision. In addition, there are numerous line drawings and pencil sketches of morphological details, descriptions and a key for identification. In summary this work is a unique combination of art and science.

The book, edited by Christophe Brochard together with an international team of scientific experts, and published by KNNV Publishing, is to be produced in A4 format and will comprise approximately 400 pages. The text is trilingual: French, German, and English.

The book will be available for around 80 Euro. However, in order to achieve this price, a minimum print run of at least 300 copies is required.

This important work can only be published with your advanced help. You do not need to send any money now but, if you are interested in making this important publishing event happen, please e-mail the BDS shop at [shop@british-dragonflies.org.uk](mailto:shop@british-dragonflies.org.uk)

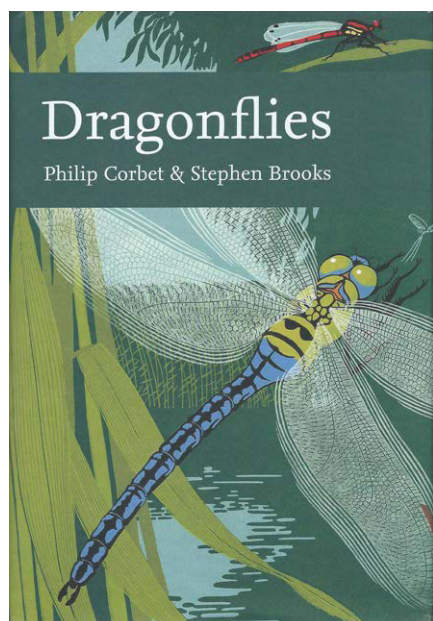
**Lynn Curry**

[shop@british-dragonflies](mailto:shop@british-dragonflies)



Larva of *Cordulia aenea*, © Foundation Collection Robert - Nouveau Musée Bienne

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



### WIN A SIGNED COPY OF Dragonflies BY CORBET & BROOKS

Katarina Corbet, daughter of Philip Corbet, has donated a signed copy of *Dragonflies* by Philip Corbet & Stephen Brooks, including unused bookplates, as the prize for this competition.

The theme of the competition is "Close-up on Dragonflies"

- The competition is open to all BDS members.
- Entrants should send up to 3 jpg images by e-mail to the Editor at [shop@british-dragonflies.org.uk](mailto:shop@british-dragonflies.org.uk)
- Each entry may comprise up to 3 images. The images should be a maximum of 5MB in size, and sent on separate e-mails.
- A short list of 10 entries will be selected by the pre-judges Mark Tyrrell, Steve Cham and Steve Brooks.
- The winner will be selected from the shortlist by Katarina Corbet.
- The winner will be presented with the signed copy of "Dragonflies" at the BDS Annual Meeting, 14 November 2015.
- The BDS reserves the right to reproduce the winning entry for promotional purposes.
- The closing date for entries is 31 July 2015.



# FIELD MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

*Reports compiled by Mike Averill*

Each year the Society runs field meetings around the British Isles. These are advertised in the Spring issue of Dragonfly News and most reports appear in the Autumn issue. If you would like to run a meeting in your area please contact Mike for guidelines.

**Saturday 21 March 2015**

**Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Warwickshire**

**Contact:** Peter Reeve ( ) email: peter@reeve60.org.uk. Contact number on the day only: 0790064079.

**Aim:** The day will introduce you to the identification of dragonfly larvae and larval cases (exuvia). The importance of larvae and larval cases in monitoring dragonfly populations and their breeding sites will be discussed.

The rough timetable for the day is as follows:

10.30 -12.30 Presentation and hands on identification workshop of exuvia.

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-16.00 Field identification of live larvae.

There is a charge of £15.00 per person payable to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to cover costs and to contribute to equipment for recording. Refreshments but not lunch included. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

**Meet:** 10.15 for 10.30am for the start in the Barn at the Nature Centre. (SP 386761).

For map see: [www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php](http://www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php)

**Requirements:** Bring strong footwear, lunch or eat at the Nature Centre café.

Pre-booking for the day is essential. Place confirmed on receipt of payment.

**Tuesday 12 May, Tuesday 23 June and Tuesday 18 August, 2015 (3 days)**

**National Trust Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire**

**Aim:** Discovering Dragonflies - a repeat of the successful series of 3 dragonfly identification workshops with County Recorder Sue McLamb. Aimed at beginners this series will enable people to identify a range of species that occupy different flight periods throughout the season. Classroom inputs during the morning will focus on identification of 'seasonal species' and an understanding of the natural history of these fantastic insects. Participants will also learn how the life cycle is adapted for species emerging at different times of the year. Following a brief lunch the afternoons will be spent outside at 3 different locations on the Long Mynd putting identification skills to the test in a variety of habitats.

**Meet:** Please report to the National Trust's chalet pavilion at Carding Mill Valley, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6JG. The workshop will start at 10am and finish at 2pm. For further directions see <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carding-mill-valley-and-shropshire-hills/how-to-get-here/>

**Requirements:** Packed lunch essential. Wellies/walking boots and waterproofs as we will be venturing out! Total walking will be no more than 1km. Identification guides and hand lens if owned.

**Contact:** Booking essential via Emily Knight ( ) or email ( )

**Cost:** £10 per session

**NB:** Weather permitting 2 afternoons will be spent at pools on top of the Long Mynd so some participants will need to drive and car sharing will be very much appreciated.

**Sunday 24 May, 2015**

**Stover Country Park and Little Bradley Ponds, Devon**

**Leader / contact:** Dave Smallshire ( ) email ( )

**Aim:** Spring dragonflies at two of their prime sites in Devon. The focus will be on local specialities: Hairy Dragonfly and Downy Emerald.

**Meet:** 10:00 a.m. at the visitor centre (SX833751; entrance off A382 to Newton Abbot, 300m from A38, 10 miles from M5) finishing by 4:00 p.m.

**Requirements:** Bring lunch. Close-focus binoculars and wellies useful. Pay and display car park. Advance booking not necessary.

**Saturday 6 June 2015****Brandon Marsh Nature Centre, Warwickshire****Dragonfly adult identification and recording workshop.**

**Contact:** Peter Reeve ( ) email: peter@reeve60.org.uk. Contact number on the day only: 07980064079.

**Aim:** Indoor and outdoor identification sessions will be held at the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Nature Centre. How to record dragonfly presence and behaviour in the field and the recording protocol to use, as recommended by the British Dragonfly Society, will be discussed. There is no charge but it is hoped participants will join the county team of dragonfly recorders. Refreshments are included but not lunch.

**Meet:** Meet for a 10.30am start in the Barn at the Nature Centre. ( SP385758 ).

For map see: [www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php](http://www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php)

**Requirements:** Bring strong footwear, lunch or eat at the Nature Centre café.

**Sunday 7 June, 2015****Grand Western Canal, Devon**

**Leader / contact:** Dave Smallshire ( ) email ( )

**Aim:** A joint meeting with the Devonshire Association to look for Scarce Chaser, Red-eyed Damselfly and Hairy Dragonfly.

**Meet:** At 10.00 a.m. at Ebear Bridge, Westleigh (ST060163); take A361 from M5 at junction 27; in 500m take slip road (signpost Tiverton Parkway); turn right at first and right at second roundabouts; follow minor road for 2 miles until alongside straight section with canal on left; park before canal bridge. The meeting will end at lunchtime.

**Requirements:** Binoculars will be helpful. Booking not necessary.

**Saturday 13 June 2015****Paxton Pits, Cambridgeshire**

**Contact:** Peter Reeve ( ) email: peter@reeve60.org.uk. Contact number on the day only: 07980064079

**Aim:** Paxton Pits is a reserve of special interest to dragonfly enthusiasts. It is the most westerly known breeding site for the Norfolk Hawker. This is an opportunity to get more familiar with the species for those of us who rarely see it. Paxton Pits has a rich and interesting dragonfly fauna including Variable Damselfly and Scarce Chaser. In addition to dragonflies there is much else of natural history to see - and hear. With luck, there will be singing Nightingales.

**Meet:** Meet at the visitors centre for an 11.00am start. Grid ref. TL196629; post code PE19 6ET.

For map see: [www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php](http://www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php).

**Requirements:** Bring lunch, strong footwear.

**Saturday 13 June 2015****Yardley Chase, Northamptonshire**

**Contact:** Mark Tyrrell ( ) e-mail: ( )

**Aim:** Yardley Chase is a private woodland estate, with a series of ponds around World War II bunkers. The ponds host the only local site with a population of Dowy Emerald. We will should also see good numbers of Hairy Dragonflies, and Azure Damselflies as well as all the commoner species.

**Meet:** This field trip is limited to 12 participants and full joining instructions will be provided. Please book at least two weeks prior to the trip date. The field trip will start at 1000hrs and finish around 1630hrs.

**Requirements:** There are no toilets on site. Bring strong footwear and a packed lunch.

Please note that this trip is subject to permission being granted by the Compton Estates Conservation Group.

**Saturday 20 June 2015****Countess Wear and Exminster Marshes, Devon**

**Leader / contact:** Dave Smallshire ( ) email ( )

**Aim:** An introduction to the dragonflies and damselflies of the still and flowing waters in the area, in conjunction with Exeter City Council. Chances of seeing Red-eyed Damselfly, White-legged Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle, Hairy Dragonfly, Emperor, Black-tailed Skimmer, Scarce Chaser and perhaps an early Small Red-eyed Damselfly.

**Meet:** At 10.00 a.m. in the rowing club car park at SX941894 (turn left off the A379 westbound, immediately before the swing bridge) moving to Exminster Marshes (SX 950880) after lunch; finish by 4 p.m.

**Requirements:** Bring lunch if staying for the afternoon. Binoculars will be helpful. Booking not necessary.

**Saturday 20 June 2015****Woodwalton Fen**

**Aim:** To see as many dragonflies as possible at this site.

**Meet:** Jacksons Bridge at 11.00am. OSM 142. Grid ref TL235848 (Parking along Great Ravely Drain)

**Requirement:** Bring pack lunch, binoculars, insect repellent and wear appropriate clothing and footwear in case of inclement weather. There are no toilet facilities on site. Everybody is welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Contact/Leaders:** Mick and Sue Parfitt - telephone: ( ) Mobile 07745241061. e-mail: ( )





**Sat/Sun 27/28 June 2015.**

**Thorney Lakes Camping and Caravanning Site, Somerset**

**Venue:** meet at Thorney Lakes Camping and Caravanning Site, nr. Muchelney, Somerset. Assemble: at the house just inside the Caravan Site. Map reference: ST430 232 OS129, Yeovil & Sherborne Explorer Map.

**Time:** 10am both mornings.

**Aim:** to survey dragonflies at Thorney Lakes, John Leach's Conservation Pond, and hopefully some of the ditches (rhynes) on near-by Westmoor on the Somerset Levels. Key species: Variable Damselfly, Scarce Chaser. We will also be looking for any sightings of Small Red-eyed Damselfly (as far as I know, not yet recorded in this area).

**Bring:** insect net, field guides, monoc- or binoculars, AND lunch.

**Contact:** Mike Parr: [redacted] or email [redacted].

Both dates are available contact Mike if you would prefer the second date

## Sat 4 July to Sun 12 July - Dragonfly Week

**Sunday 5 July 2015**

**Prewley Moor, North Dartmoor, Devon**

**Leader / contact:** Dave Smallshire [redacted] email [redacted]

**Aim:** To see Southern Damselfly, Golden-ringed Dragonfly and Keeled Skimmer at an open moorland site. Possibility of Small Red and Scarce Blue-tailed Damselflies.

**Meet:** At 10:00 a.m. in small car park off A368 Okehampton to Tavistock road (at SX542911, 0.5 mile SW of A30 junction).

**Requirements:** Bring lunch. Wellies useful. Close-focus binoculars will be helpful. Booking not necessary.

**Sat 11 July 2015, 10.30am – 3.30pm**

**Wildlife Taster Day: Dragonflies and Damselflies. Led by David Clarke.**

**Venue:** RSPB Campfield Marsh/Solway Wetlands Centre, nr Bowness-on-Solway [NGR: NY197615]

The morning session will include a talk and demonstration; the afternoon will be a walk, visiting various pools and visiting Bowness Moss (Common). The programme may be varied to cope with weather on the day. Full walk will be on boardwalk and path – about 3 miles return. This event is organised by the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme. It is free of charge but booking is ESSENTIAL- contact [redacted] or telephone 016973 33055 to book your place. See [www.solwaywetlands.org.uk/events](http://www.solwaywetlands.org.uk/events) for more information.

**Saturday 11 July 2015**

**NWT Upton Fen, Norfolk**

**Leader / contact:** Dr Pam Taylor – Norfolk Dragonfly Recorder

Email: [redacted] to book or phone [redacted]

**Aim:** Morning walk to look for a broad range of dragonfly species, including Norfolk Hawker and Variable Damselfly.

**Meet:** 10.00am at Upton Fen car park, TG379136. Postcode NR13 6EQ (Low Road). From Acle, Norwich or Wroxham head towards South Walsham, then follow signs for Pilson Green.

**Requirements:** Booking essential – preferably by email. Numbers strictly limited. Wellies or boots, insect repellent. Packed lunch if staying on site (unguided) for the afternoon.

**Saturday 11 July 2015**

**Farnborough Hall, Warwickshire.**

**Contact:** Peter Reeve [redacted] email: [peter@reeve60.org.uk](mailto:peter@reeve60.org.uk). Contact number on the day only: 07980064079

**Aim:** Farnborough Hall is a National Trust property and the estate includes a number of pools. Which we hope to visit on the day to survey the dragonflies for the Trust. Some of the pools cannot be accessed by the ordinary visitor so this will be rare opportunity to visit them. Some recording of dragonflies has been done, in particular for Sourland Pool which is open to the public. Sourland has a good list of 17 species. A few records have been made for two other pools.

**Meet:** Meet for an 10.30am start at the public car park by Sourlands Pool. Grid ref. SP428494; post code OX17 1DU.

For map see: [www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php](http://www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php)

**Note:** There may be a charge of £2.50 per head.

**Requirements:** Bring lunch, strong footwear.



**Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies****17 - 19 July, 2015****Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire**

**Aim:** This course is aimed at all those with a desire to learn more about these stunning insects. Open to all levels of ability we aim to introduce you close up to a good number of the 32 Shropshire species of dragonfly and damselfly so that you will leave confident in your own abilities to identify them and make species records. Classroom sessions on identification, life history, larvae and exuviae will be combined with a number of field visits to a range of aquatic habitats. This will allow you to put your skills into practice and to observe and understand the visual spectacle of these fascinating insects on the wing.

**Tutors:** Sue McLamb is the County recorder for Dragonflies in Shropshire and Odonata Tsar for the Shropshire Ecological Data Network. Ian Cheeseborough is a self-employed entomologist and previously held the post of County recorder for this group of insects.

**Location:** Preston Montford Field Centre (SJ433143). For further directions see

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/prestonmontford/location.aspx> . The course will start on Friday evening and finish on Sunday late afternoon.

**Contact:** For further details and booking please contact Preston Montford Field Centre Tel: 0845 3307372 or email: enquiries.

**Cost:** £253 (residential) £173 (non residential)

**Saturday 25 July 2015****Abbey Green Park, Polesworth, Warwickshire.**

**Contact:** Peter Reeve ( ) email: [peter@reeve60.org.uk](mailto:peter@reeve60.org.uk). Contact number on the day only: 07980064079

**Aim:** The Abbey Green Park is beside the River Anker. A significant amount of work improving the water bodies on the site was undertaken by the council, in consultation with the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, during the winter 2013/2014. It is expected these improvements will enhance the dragonfly interest of the site and the first signs of such improvement were showing in the summer of 2014. The aim of the visit is to survey the dragonflies on the site.

Depending on available time a visit may be made to nearby Alvecote Pools.

**Meet:** Meet for an 10.30am start at the Abbey Green car park. Grid ref. SK262021; post code B78 1HB.

For map see: [www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php](http://www.warwickshire-dragonflies.org.uk/wdg/meetings.php)

**Requirements:** Bring lunch, strong footwear.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015****Thursley Common NNR and Elstead Common (SWT)**

**Leader:** Francis Kelly - Landline: ( ), Mobile on the day: 07952 285661

**Expected Highlights:** Golden-ringed Dragonfly – and many others.

Meet 10:30 at the Moat Pond car park at SU 89949 41622. Limited parking; please team up if possible.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015****Croome Park, Worcestershire (National Trust)**

**Contact / Leader:** Mike Averill 07758 702349

**Aim:** to visit the Park which has proved very successful for dragonflies with its large lake and river. 19 species have been recorded so far including the resident Small Red-eyed Damselfly

**Meet:** 10:30 am outside the NT canteen

**Requirements:** As we are only observing, not sampling, walking footwear plus binoculars and cameras.

There is no charge for entry to NT non-members but everyone is encouraged to purchase local raffle tickets which support the work to maintain the park. NT members please show your cards. The canteen can provide a variety of refreshments. Please let me know if you would like to come ( )

## Other Events:

**Saturday 25 April, 2015****Preston Montford Field Centre, Shropshire**

**Aim:** Dragonfly Larvae Workshop with County Recorder Sue McLamb. Aimed at beginners this course will commence with an introduction to dragonfly larvae and the part they play in the dragonfly lifecycle. Indoor practical sessions will then focus on the identification of exuviae. After lunch the afternoon will be spent out and about at the field centre dipping in ponds and practising some hands on identification.

**Meet:** Please report to reception at Preston Montford Field Centre (SJ433143). The workshop will start at 10.00am and finish at 4pm. For further directions see <http://www.field-studies-council.org/centres/prestonmontford/location.aspx>

**Requirements:** Packed lunch. Wellies/walking boots and waterproofs as we will be venturing out! Total walking will be no more than 1km. Larval identification guides and hand lens if owned.

**Contact:** For further details and booking please contact Preston Montford Field Centre Tel: 0845 3307372 or email: enquiries.

**Cost:** £35

**NB:** For those who wish, the 'Field Guide to the larvae and exuviae of British Dragonflies' by Steve Cham will be available for purchase at £10 (correct cash/cheque only).



**Friday evening 31 July to Monday afternoon 3 August, 2015**

**Slapton Field Centre, Slapton, South Devon**

**Tutor:** Dave Smallshire

**Aims:** A long weekend for those seeking an introduction to the dragonflies and damselflies of southwest England, with visits to Dartmoor, the Bovey Basin and the Exe Marshes. Emphasis will be placed on the identification of adult stages in the field; some 20 species might be seen. Other topics to be covered include the identification of larvae and exuviae, habitat preferences, conservation and management for dragonflies and photography.

**Fees and booking:** Shared room: £330; sole occupancy room: £360; non-resident: £240. Pre-booking with Field Studies Council essential, by mail, phone, email or online (address: Slapton Ley Field Centre, Slapton, Kingsbridge, TQ7 2QP; tel: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED] website: [www.field-studies-council.org/slaptonley/](http://www.field-studies-council.org/slaptonley/)).

**Naturetrek European dragonfly tours in 2015**

**Dragonflies of La Brenne & Vienne, France: 18th to 25th June (Nick Ransdale)**

**Bulgaria's Dragonflies: 23rd June to 1st July (Dave Smallshire)**

**Dragonflies and Birds of the Camargue: 8th to 15th July (Dave Smallshire)**

**Sardinia's Dragonflies: 3rd to 10th June (Gerald Broddelez)**

For further details of these and other Naturetrek tours, see [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) or ring Naturetrek on [REDACTED]

**Sunday 10 May 2015- 11am to 4pm**

**Go Wild at Barton Broad in Norfolk**

**Details:** Lots of wildlife activities, boat trips and walks on offer throughout the day. Families especially welcome. Further details at <http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on/calendar>

**Royal Entomological Society Insect Festival 2015 - Sunday 5th July 2015**

The Yorkshire Branch of the BDS will be attending the RES Insect Festival, which is being held in York Museum Hospitium and Gardens on Sunday 5th July. This event is a celebration for anyone with a fascination for insects - from exhibitors and traders to wildlife groups and the general public. The event will start with activities before the Sunday and further details will be posted on the RES website as they become available. Please see <http://www.royensoc.co.uk/events/insect-festival-2015> for full details.

**Saturday 10 October 2015- 10am to 4pm**

**Wild about Norfolk at Easton College, Norwich, Norfolk**

**Details:** Come and visit us on the BDS stand at this Wildlife Conservation Fair. The 2014 event had over 1,000 visitors and more than 40 exhibitors. Lots of activities for old and young alike including information stands, talks, walks, environmental games and craft activities. Admission free.

## Courses & events at WICKEN FEN

### Courses

Sunday 14th June 2015 (10am - 5pm) – Dragonfly larva identification for Beginners. With Henry Curry

The aim of the course is for participants to identify dragonfly larvae to genus and understand the basic steps of keying out to species. The course will consist of the Microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance, self-study periods and, depending on the weather, a hunt for larvae/exuviae.

Saturday 4th July 2015 (10am - 5pm) – Adult dragonflies and their habitat for Beginners. With Stuart Irons.

The aim of this course is for participants to identify common species of adult dragonflies and waterplants. There will be sessions using colour photo presentations, Microscope-TV link, one-to-one guidance and a field tour of adult dragonfly and water plant habitats.

Saturday 25th July 2015 (10am – 5pm) – Introducing the dragonfly. With Henry Curry.

Specifically designed for the beginner, this course includes dragonfly identification, biology and ecology, including a plenary session with the Microscope-TV link and a field tour of dragonfly habitats on site.

All courses cost £35 (includes Fen admission). Please bring your own lunch or visit the café on site. Advance Booking essential, telephone [REDACTED] or e-mail [REDACTED]

### Events

Sunday 5th July 2015. Dragonfly Day Free. walks, talks and activities.

Free activities will include:

45 minute Dragonfly 'Taster' Walks; Larva-feeding Demonstrations (from 10.30am to 3pm); Pond-Dipping

Making Pipe-cleaner dragonflies; Origami dragonflies; Self-guided dragonfly explorer trail.

Additional activities for the young and young-at-heart

(please note, normal admission charges to the Fen apply)





## Walton Colliery Nature Park - Sunday 13 July 2014. Tom Hubball

17 people attended the field trip to Walton Colliery Nature Park which was organised jointly between the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS and Andrew McGuinness, who is a Countryside Officer for Wakefield Council. The event being held on behalf of the Friends of Walton Colliery Nature Park.

Although the weather was not perfect, being cool, overcast and breezy, we managed to record 10 species and at least a further 4 would probably have been present if the weather had been better. When a dragonfly was spotted, usually perched on vegetation to keep out of the wind, it allowed several of the group to take photographs, whilst I explained the salient points of how to identify it.

The highlights for many there was an Emperor patrolling over the lake and a Southern Hawker resting at a perfect height for photographs. The most unusual record, given the habitat was a Banded Demoiselle, which I suspect had come from either the nearby River Calder or Barnsley Canal.

In addition, 10 species of butterflies and moths were noted including a very impressive Puss Moth caterpillar which, unfortunately for the other attendees, was only seen in the car park after they had left.

Given the number of dragonflies we saw in less than perfect weather, we are organising another event this year, on a date yet to be decided, to see if we can indeed improve on the number of species recorded.

The Yorkshire Branch of the BDS welcomes any British Dragonfly Society member on their field trips and would encourage members of the BDS who live in and around Yorkshire to join the Branch. Membership is still only £3 per annum and for that small fee, you receive the annual Branch newsletter 'Skimmer' and can attend the two indoor meetings. Various field trips and other events are organised throughout the year. Details of all the Yorkshire Branch field meetings can be found on the Yorkshire Branch of the BDS website at [www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredragonflies.org.uk) or on the Diary page of the BDS website.

# Hot Spots

**BDS Scottish Officer Daniele Muir describes an important Hot Spot north of the border.**

## Crombie Park

**Key Species: Black Darter**



**The Site:** Crombie Country Park is owned by Angus Council and managed by Angus Council Ranger Service. It comprises 102 hectares, including Crombie Loch, ponds, grassland, heathland, broadleaf and coniferous woodlands. There are waymarked walks, orienteering trails, marquees for hire and lots of information in the Visitor Centre. If you want to get off the beaten track, that is easy to do too. Heron Pond has undergone management recently to remove vegetation and erect a viewing platform so it's all the easier to see the dragonflies!

**Getting there:** Crombie Country Park, Monikie, Angus, DD5 3QL. From Monikie follow the B961 for two miles, the park entrance is on the left. From the A92, take the Muirdrum turn off, turn left at the Crombie crossroads onto the B961, the park entrance is on the right after half a mile. There is a car park (parking charges apply from Easter or April 1st to 30th September) at the entrance to the park, disabled drivers can park close to the Visitor Centre.

**When to visit:** Large Red Damselflies are the earliest emerging species, which can be seen from mid-April onwards (depending on the weather). The Black Darters can be seen in July & August sunbathing on the railings and boardwalks, and hunting over the heathland around Heron and Peddieston Pond.

**Also good for:** Red squirrels are found throughout the coniferous woodland, many butterflies are on the wing on sunny days and Green and Great spotted woodpeckers nest in the trees close to the Visitor Centre. Osprey can be seen fishing in the loch and there are two hides from which to enjoy watching all the wildlife. Other dragonfly species found here include Common Darter, Common Hawker, Four-spotted Chaser, Common Blue Damselfly, Azure Damselfly, Emerald Damselfly and Blue-tailed Damselfly.



# Last Dates for 2014

**Adrian Parr** rounds up the last recorded dates for each of the common UK species.

Temperatures during the first half of 2014 were significantly above average, and some good early emergences were noted, as documented in Dragonfly News 66. This general trend continued during the second half of the year, and the mean annual Central England Temperature during 2014 was the highest ever recorded. This did not, however, stop much of August from being cool and wet. Late dates during autumn were rather variable. A few species seemingly finished flying relatively early, though maybe this to some extent reflected a reduction in recording opportunities during late summer. Most species showed rather typical last dates, but a few produced some unusually late sightings. In particular there was a good series of late records for Red-eyed Damselfly, with at least one remarkably late record of Four-spotted Chaser as well. It is likely that these sightings reflect unusual autumn emergences, perhaps in response to the above average temperatures during much of the year. The table below lists all last dates currently available to me. [DN](#)

SPECIES	LAST DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER
Banded Demoiselle	22-Sep-14*	Berkshire	J. Ward-Smith
Beautiful Demoiselle	16-Sep-14*	Hampshire	P. Ritchie
Scarce Emerald Damselfly	24-Aug-14	Norfolk	J. Mee
Emerald Damselfly	30-Sep-14	Surrey	R. O'Mahony
Willow Emerald Damselfly	2-Nov-14	Suffolk	per I. Barthorpe
Azure Damselfly	30-Aug-14	Warwickshire/Kent	J. Bowley/J. & G. Brook
Red-eyed Damselfly	2-Oct-14	Surrey	R. O'Mahony
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	15-Sep-14	Berkshire	J. Ward-Smith
Large Red Damselfly	29-Jul-14	Warwickshire	K. & P. Reeve
Common Blue Damselfly	1-Nov-14	Kent/Oxfordshire	M. Heath/C. Webster
Blue-tailed Damselfly	21-Sep-14	Kent/Northants	M. Heath/D. Warner
Small Red Damselfly	22-Sep-14	Hampshire	P. Ritchie
White-legged Damselfly	12-Sep-14	Northamptonshire	M. Tyrrell
Southern Hawker	27-Nov-14	Glamorgan	M. Hipkin
Brown Hawker	4-Nov-14	Nottinghamshire	T. Pownall
Migrant Hawker	20-Nov-14	Warwickshire	J. Harris
Emperor Dragonfly	24-Sep-14	Warwickshire	RSPB
Hairy Dragonfly	1-Jul-14	Devon	D. Stone
Downy Emerald	29-Jul-14	Surrey	G. Hinchon
Brilliant Emerald	19-Aug-14	Surrey	M. O'Mahony
Broad-bodied Chaser	23-Aug-14	Somerset	S. Brain
Scarce Chaser	20-Jul-14	Wiltshire	S. Covey
Four-spotted Chaser	3-Oct-14	Hampshire	P. Winter
Black-tailed Skimmer	28-Sep-14	Essex	T. Caroen
Keeled Skimmer	22-Sep-14	Berkshire	J. Ward-Smith
Black Darter	9-Nov-14	Shropshire	Anon.
Ruddy Darter	2-Oct-14	Bedfordshire	per D. Anderson
Common Darter	3-Dec-14	Glamorgan/Beds/Hants	P. Blanning/S. Northwood/ R. Swyer

\* An unidentified demoiselle sp. was seen in Hampshire on 6 October (C. Webster)



# Migrant and New Colonist Update

**Adrian Parr** reports on the activities of migrant and new colonist dragonflies for late summer and autumn 2014.

In contrast to the eventful first half of the year, news during the later part of the season was rather more mixed as far as migrant dragonflies were concerned. Following the spring influx, a locally-bred second generation of Red-veined Darter was noted at several sites in England/Wales as far north as Spurn in East Yorkshire. Numbers seen at any one site were, however, rather low. The Lesser Emperor also had a quiet end to the season, with no further sightings after 3 August (Blashford Lakes, Hampshire). It was, nonetheless, quite a good year for this species overall, and certainly a marked improvement on the poor tally during 2013.

Perhaps the biggest migration news during the second half of 2014 was the huge numbers of Migrant Hawker that were about in parts of southeast England, though surprisingly this attracted relatively little attention at the time. At least 700 were seen at Dunwich Forest in coastal East Suffolk on 30 July, with smaller but still impressive numbers being reported from other sites near the Suffolk coast over the next few days. Large numbers were also noted in East Sussex at the same time, with "literally hundreds" at Fairlight on the Pett Levels on 31 July and 100 east of Robertbridge on 2 August. Although synchronous emergences can result in high local concentrations, the location of most key sites near to the southeast English coast rather suggests that immigration was involved in these particular events. Another surge of coastal sightings during early/mid September – with e.g. 200 at Dunwich Forest, Suffolk, on 5 September and 100 at Spurn Point, East Yorkshire on 12 September – may reflect a second

wave of migration. Two individuals were also attracted overnight to UV moth traps on the Suffolk coast during this later period.

As with the migrant species, news concerning Britain's new colonist species was also rather mixed. As mentioned in Dragonfly News 66, the Dainty Damselfly appeared to be one of the losers during 2014. The Southern Migrant Hawker also seemed to fair relatively badly, for although the species was recorded from most of its key sites around the greater Thames Estuary, as well as at some new ones in the area, in most instances records referred just to a single individual seen on a single date. Hopefully the species will be more obvious in 2015. In contrast to these two species, the Southern Emerald Damselfly did well. It was recorded again from its known breeding sites at Winterton Dunes in Norfolk and Cliffe Marshes in Kent. The species also appears to have become established once again in the Sandwich Bay area of Kent (where breeding was noted in the early 2000s), with at least 28 being recorded there during the year. Not far away in east Kent, a male was also noted from near Reculver; this might either have been a fresh immigrant or perhaps the record refers to yet another breeding colony.

Finally, in what was probably the dragonfly highlight of the year, the Willow Emerald Damselfly was to show a significant range expansion during the season. Individuals or small colonies were reported during late summer from many new sites in its core area of Norfolk/Suffolk/Essex/north Kent, with Suffolk records now extending right up to the Cambridgeshire border (at Red Lodge). More importantly, records were also received from two new counties. In Surrey, a colony was discovered at Nutfield Marsh at the end of August, and two individuals were later photographed at Littleworth Common. In Hertfordshire, small numbers were discovered at Amwell Nature Reserve during September with a male also being seen at Balls Wood. It will be interesting to see if yet further range expansion is noted during the coming year.

In addition to its many other features, readers are reminded that a short article on potential new immigrant and colonist species to Britain appears in the accompanying issue of Darter. **DN**







## Favourite Days

**A precariously located pond on cliffs in the Isle of Wight makes a stunning location for a colony of Keeled Skimmers. *Peter Hunt* explains.**

The south-west coast of the Isle of Wight is well known for bygone shipwrecks, dinosaur fossils, and the habitat of the Glanville Fritillary butterfly. Open to the worst of the weather sweeping in from the Atlantic and up the English Channel this stretch of coastline takes a battering from winter storms. From the Needles in the north to St Catherine's Lighthouse in the south, the mainly greensand cliffs are attacked by the sea and rain. Therefore it is surprising that here on the cliff landslip exists our only colony of Keeled Skimmers.

In the company of Andy Butler, a BDS Life Member, we visited our Keeled Skimmer sites at the beginning of July. A few days prior to this I had made a visit to Whale Chine to check on access to the beach as the main site, a short distance to the south cannot be reached via the cliffs. On the Island we have up to twenty 'Chines', described as 'steep-sided river valleys where the river flows to the sea through typically, soft eroding coastal cliffs of sandstone or clays'. Whale Chine certainly has steep sides and until 2005, 126 wooden steps took you down to

the beach. I say 2005 because that is when most of the stairway collapsed and because of 'major structural works and great expense needed to make the path safe,' the council has made it subject to "temporary closure". Still, thanks to the local anglers who fish here from the shore, a rope has been attached to the bottom of what remains of the stairway allowing one to gingerly get onto a ledge and eventually down to the beach.

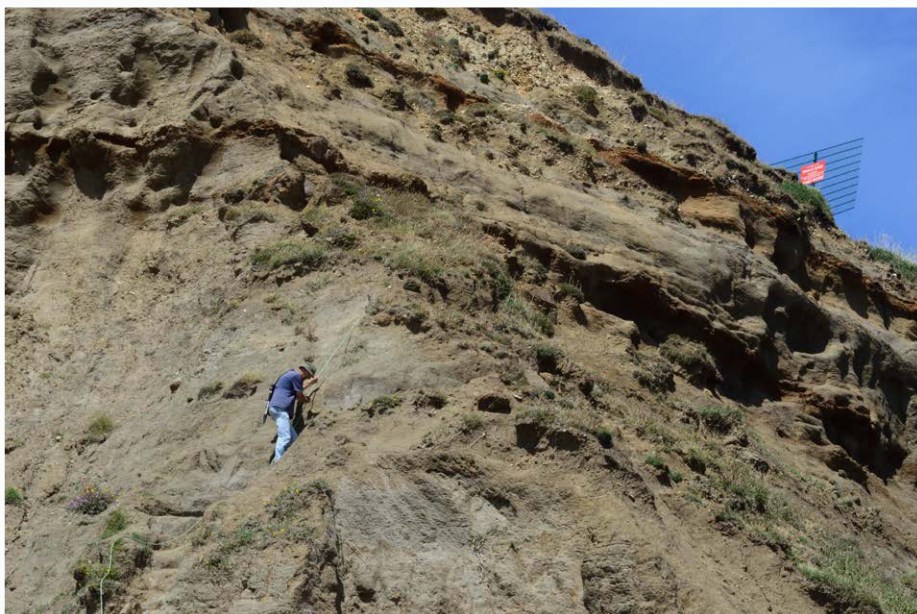
Using this ledge it has been possible to get access to the smaller of the two skimmer sites immediately north of the Chine. That is until this year when a cliff fall swept away another vital bit of ledge needed to get onto the landslip site. Because of this we had to use the next nearest Chine which meant a one hour trudge along the sand and stone shoreline to Whale Chine and a further half an hour walk south to the larger of the two Skimmer sites.

I must say that it was not unpleasant to undertake this walk in the high summer although it tended to be a bit heavy on the legs especially when wearing wellies. Eventually we reached Whale Chine and pressed on along the shore to the second site. As we neared it we came upon a dragonfly flitting around on the beach which we identified as a mature female Keeled Skimmer.

This site is about twenty feet above the level of the beach and after some time we managed to make our way onto the landslip. Here we were presented with a large expanse of mainly flat terrain as obviously a very considerable chunk of land had slid down, no doubt due to the vast amount of water seeping through these very unstable sandstone cliffs. Gorse bushes and reeds covered the ground which was pock marked with shallow pools, some with water but others almost dry. The water draining from the cliffs above had filled these pools with a mixture of diluted minerals and oxides turning the runnels a rusty brown in places.

As we strolled around we came across good numbers of Skimmers, mature powder-blue males on their territories, rich ochre coloured females as well as mature females, and mating pairs. At the largest of the pools situated near to the beach and not yet clogged with





reeds we encountered a patrolling male Emperor, the only other species we were to see that day. It was reassuring that the Keeled Skimmers seemed to be fairing so well here despite all that the weather could throw at them.

It was time to make our way back along the shore and a stop-off at Whale Chine. To our surprise and thanks no doubt to the local anglers again, we could see from below that they had gone to great trouble to establish a series of ropes up the cliff, combined with footholds fashioned into the sandstone to aid in the climb. None of this was visible from above when I reconnoitred a few days earlier. With some care and quite a bit of effort we made it to the landslip of the second Skimmer site only to find that last winter's cliff fall had buried much of the habitat. However the site did extend for some distance along the landslip and although we could not go any further because of cliff rubble and debris we hoped that some of the habitat still remained.

We managed to make our way up to the base of the collapsed stairway and found the return walk along the cliff top much easier on the legs than via the beach.

I will be back this coming summer to see our Keeled Skimmers again, I hope.

DN

**Opposite: Keeled Skimmer pond on the cliff edge.**

**Top: The long walk home - climbing down Whale Chine**

**Middle: The long walk home - across the beach back to the footpath**

**Bottom left: Mating pair of Keeled Skimmer.**

**Bottom Right: Male Keeled Skimmer.**





# Notes & Observations

Compiled by Mark Tyrrell



I spotted this threesome of Golden-ringed Dragonflies in the Bissoe Valley, Cornwall, on 4 September 2014. It shows a male clasping another male who is already in tandem with a female. I wonder what the middle male thought was going on?

**Sue Rowe**

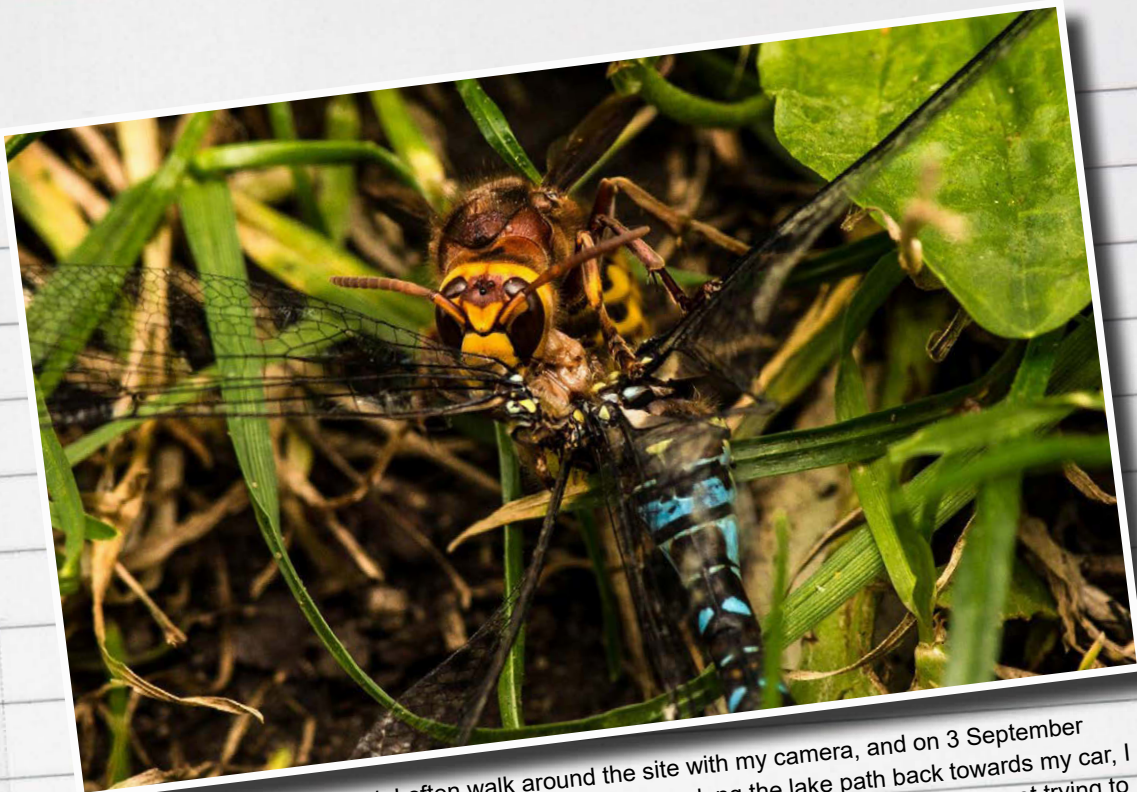
I found this amazing scene in my garden. The strength of the web to contain what must have been an immense struggle with such a large insect is incredible. Would the spider be wary of the dragonfly's jaws?

As a post script, it appeared that the spider might have bitten off more than he could chew because the following morning, I found it, dead next to what remained of the dragonfly, could the Migrant Hawker have bitten the spider in its attempt to free itself?

**Steve Coleman**







At Priory Park in Bedford, I often walk around the site with my camera, and on 3 September 2014, I was photographing crickets in the fields. Walking along the lake path back towards my car, I heard the buzzing of a hornet's wings. I looked around and was shocked to see the hornet trying to sting a Migrant Hawker, who was trying to escape. The hornet had its jaws around one of the wings and was stinging the head and eyes.

Once they hit the ground on the path in front of me the hornet carried on with the head assault until the Hawker succumbed to the venom and was dragged off the path into the grass. At one point the hornet attempted to fly away with the Hawker, but soon came down.

I quickly got my camera out of my bag and took a few photos before the hornet cut the head off and flew away with it.

**Dave Bush**



Isabell Buenz contacted me with this image of a Golden-ringed Dragonfly struggling with its prey at High Cup Gill in the Lake District in 2002. The prey turned out to be a bumble bee.

Philip Corbet mentions that Anax and Aeshas predate on honey bees in Florida and around the Mississippi, and Richard Rowe mentions *Uropetala carovii* (The Bush Giant) eating honey bees in New Zealand, but I'm not sure there are any photographs of Golden-rings eating them in this country, nor of bumble bees being eaten anywhere. But have I missed something? What have other people observed?

**Ruary**





During the summer of 2014, I volunteered to survey the odonata on the West Sussex Rivers Arun and Rother on behalf of Sussex Wildlife Trust. During this survey, in which incidentally I recorded 27 species, I was pleased to be able to spend time searching for Common Club-tails on this river system, one of the few on which it survives in Britain. 'Gomphus', as many British dragonfly enthusiasts refer to it, has been a particular favourite of mine since I first saw one in the 1980's, and I make an effort to see it in most years, not always successfully as this can be a notoriously elusive species and difficult to observe unless one happens upon an 'emergence' day. As these can vary significantly from year to year depending on spring weather conditions, it is possible to have many blank days before any success. My first sighting on the Rother in 2014 was on 14 May, whereas the previous year after a cold spring it was on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Searching in the same area on subsequent days revealed only four teneral, an unusually small number, although I have never seen anything like the numbers that have been recorded on more famous 'Club-tail Rivers' such as the Thames and the Severn. I considered the possibility that extreme flooding and increased river flows during the preceding winter might have pushed larvae downstream so I relocated my search to south of the Rother/Arun confluence

# Sussex Club-tails

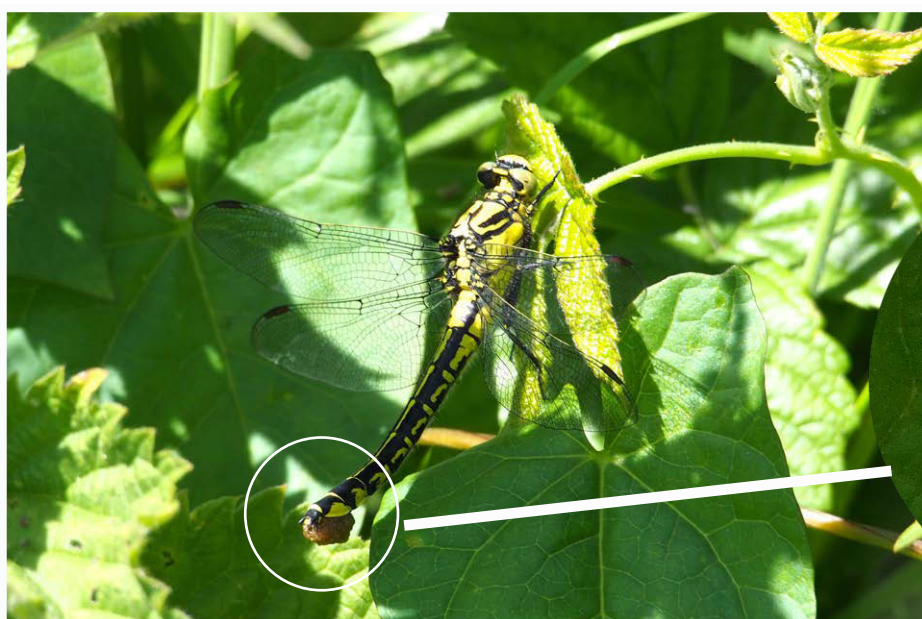
***David Sadler* tells of his encounters with the Common Club-tails on the rivers Rother and Arun in Sussex, and witnesses the rare sight of a mating pair.**



where I had seen adults in the past. It appeared that emergence there was somewhat later than upstream probably due to a lower water temperature in the larger river. I noted 54 teneral Common Clubtails from 17 May until 6 June, a more protracted emergence period than I had previously experienced. On one occasion I saw a Reed Bunting take a teneral on its not-too-agile maiden flight, and, in previous years, have seen House Sparrows and a Hobby do the same.

It became apparent that, contrary to some opinion that Common Club-tails emerge in the morning, on tidal rivers such as the Arun emergence must take place on the falling tide to avoid inundation of the emerging insect, regardless of time of day.

As is well known, Common Club-tails fly off to woodlands, often quite distant, to mature, not returning to the river for two weeks or so. My first sightings of adults back at the river were on 10 June on the Rother where I noted two males and a female carrying her egg-mass prior to oviposition, a sight I had never witnessed previously. Females are particularly elusive, appearing at the rivers only to mate and oviposit. Another 'first' for me was a mating pair on the Arun on 22 June. Subsequently, I saw mostly males, as is usual, at various points on the Arun and Rother until my last sighting of 2014, on 2 July, quite an early date but numbers seem to decline quickly and the species becomes hard to find much after the first week of July. And so, the all-too-short Common Club-tail season drew to a close having revealed a few of its secrets but posing many more questions for future summers' studies. **DN**



**Opposite: Mating pair of Common Club-tails.**

**Top: Gravid female, showing an egg mass at the tip of her abdomen.**

**Bottom: Exuvia on muddy river bank.**





Europe's rarest Damselfly, the Sedgling (*Nehalennia speciosas*) mating



# Bohemian Dragonflies

Occupying an area in the hills of central Europe, the Czech Republic currently has 26 genera of Dragonflies containing 73 species. Although some species are common over much of Europe, some interesting northern species also occur. I met Martin Waldhauser, my host for the tour, at Prague Airport and we drove to Doksy, which would be my base for six nights. The scenery was very pleasant, as North Bohemia is a lovely region of low hills, sandstone rocks and many small lakes. Traditional villages are also well preserved. During the previous week the weather had been fine and warm; now there was no sun and it was cold and windy with some rain. We decided to look for dragonflies nevertheless and headed for Kokorinsky Dul, where we visited several pools by Psovka stream. This was the only site on the tour where we had a chance of Scarce Chaser, but the weather prevented us from finding any. We only saw Yellow-spotted Whiteface *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* and common species such as Banded Demoiselle, White-legged Damselfly, Blue-tailed Damselfly, Azure Damselfly and Four-spotted Chaser. We then stopped at Mariansky Pond where we noted Yellow-spotted Emerald *Somatochlora flavomaculata* and Southern Skimmer *Orthetrum brunneum*. At Peatbog Klucek we found Variable Damselfly, Yellow-spotted Emerald, Northern Damselfly and some commoner species. By now it was getting too cold and late to find dragonflies, so Martin dropped me off at the Hotel Grand in Doksy and went back to his home. On my first night the hotel was quite full but from then on most people had departed and it was not too busy. The food in the hotel was rather bland and I could have gone out to eat elsewhere, but ate there so I could use the Wi-Fi. I stayed in the same hotel for the duration of the tour.

Martin came and collected me each morning and we would visit different sites each day. Today it was sometimes sunny and sometimes cool, but we still found some top species although we did not travel very far from the hotel. First we visited a huge bog where, as I did not have wellingtons, I took off my socks and walked out in crocks with trouser legs rolled up. It was well worth it as this is where Martin had found Sedglings only last week. After ten minutes we found some and observed

## Bohemian White-faced Darters:



**Top: *Leucorrhinia albifrons***

**Middle: *Leucorrhinia caudalis***

**Bottom: *Leucorrhinia pectoralis***







**Top: *Ohiogomphus cecilia*.; Bottom left: *Somatochlora flavomaculata*.; Bottom Right: *Coenagrion ornatum* ;**

them for some time. There is only one other site in the Czech Republic for Sedgling *Nehalennia speciosa* and this for me, was the highlight of the tour. Other species seen included Yellow-spotted Emerald, Common Hawker and Emperor, Blue-tailed Damselfly, Yellow-spotted Whiteface, Northern and Variable Damselflies. Our only Common Winter Damselfly *Sympecma fusca* of the trip was seen here; there had been hordes ten days ago, but now their season was over. Ruby Whiteface *Leucorrhinia rubicunda* had already finished its flying

season and only a few larva were found. We drove to Jestrebi and on to a mined peatbog with springs and streams. We found Southern and Keeled Skimmers and a Hairy Dragonfly that looked good but was very reluctant to move. Its life seemed nearly over and it was the only one we saw. After a while we managed to get good views of some active Yellow-spotted Emeralds. The other interesting species here was the Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly. There were at least 20 and I observed them for some time. At Novozamecky Pond we saw a Norfolk

Hawker and a Yellow-spotted Whiteface. It was rather late in the day when we visited Macha Lake. Here we observed three emerging adult Black Darters and a Common Hawker. These are summer species that normally occur in July and August.

The following day we spent the morning searching the flooded sand quarries, in the vicinity of an abandoned Russian military airport, not far from Doksy. The weather was not bad in the morning, but it was overcast in the afternoon. We eventually found seven



Lilypad Whitefaced Darters *Leucorrhinia caudalis* here at their only known site in the Czech Republic, flying with five Dark Whitefaced Darters *Leucorrhinia albifrons* (also an uncommon to rare species in the country) and a Yellow-spotted Whiteface. Other noteworthy species included Norfolk Hawker and Dainty Damselfly, ten Variable Damselflies and ten Downy Emeralds. In the afternoon we visited Ploucnice River, but it was rather quiet. We only found one Common Club-tail, which immediately flew up into a tree, but with a long-handled net and a high jump it was caught and examined. Martin found many exuviae of the Green Snaketail *Ophiogomphus cecilia* and he saw an adult, which I missed.

Today's target was Crescent Bluet. We left the hotel at 08:30 and drove for 70km, until we were just inside Germany, as the Czech sites are too far from the Hotel. In flooded areas on an old brown coal mine we saw about 50. We also saw a Southern Skimmer and a Yellow-spotted Whiteface. We were surprised to find a Green Snaketail, which was seen very well along one of the tracks; a very impressive dragonfly. In the afternoon we visited a disused basalt quarry to look for Ruby Whiteface and Common Winter Damselfly, but had no luck with either species. Instead, we saw White-faced Darters and Yellow-spotted Whiteface, Norfolk Hawker and watched emergence of Emerald and Scarce Emerald Damselflies and two Black Darters.

We left the hotel earlier than usual and drove to Krusné hory (Ore Mountains) up to an elevation of almost 900 metres, where two species of mountain emerald can be found in small pools in the peatbogs. We soon found larvae, exuviae and then three freshly emerged adults of Alpine Emerald *Somatochlora alpestris*. One had damaged wings and could barely fly so we were able to observe it very closely. We could not find Northern Emerald and we only found its larvae. Whitefaced Darters were a numerous species and a patrolling Golden-ringed Dragonflies was a surprise as they are not usually found at this altitude. We stopped at other sites on the way back down, but did not see very much. Green Snaketail at another, lower, peatbog was an interesting record though. This individual must have been far from where it emerged.

The following day, we tried some different habitats and arrived at Luzické

hory at around 11:00. Common and Sombre Goldenring *Cordulegaster bidentata* occur here on some of the small forest streams. Martin found larvae of both species and we saw a patrolling male Golden-ringed and Sombre Goldenring

. The nearby marsh was alive with dragonflies, but only during the times that the sun was shining. This was another site where we hoped for Ruby Whiteface, but we had to concede their flight period was over. Common Hawker, Dainty, Azure and Large Red Damselflies and Four-spotted Chaser were found as well as usual commoner species. A female Golden-ringed Dragonfly was foraging above the marsh. A search for Southern Emerald Damselfly at another marsh was unsuccessful; they had not yet begun to emerge, although Emerald Damselflies were seen. We moved to Hamr na Jezerce in the mid afternoon to look for Northern Emerald but only definitely saw Brilliant, Downy and Yellow-spotted Emeralds.

On my the last day we drove a circular route of 150km to the airport. The two sites visited were for two new species. The weather was again cool and dull and I thought that our dragonfly searching would be unsuccessful, but Martin had the skill and expertise to find our targets. We searched tiny streams and ditches by fields near the Elbe River and after a while found a male and female Ornate Bluet

*Coenagrion ornatum*. The habitat was quite unremarkable and not somewhere I thought we could find an interesting species. Martin explained the distinguishing features, then we went for lunch near the Berouka River, which is rather a wide river. Later we walked along the side of it and Martin found 20 Goblet-marked Damselfly *Erythromma lindenii* in long grass along the edge of the path. This is another species where a close look is required to identify the species with certainty. It was only discovered in the Czech Republic in 2009, but had doubtless been overlooked.

I was too early for three species of Emerald Damselflies - the Migrant, Small and Western Willow *Lestes viridis* - most Darters, three Hawkers - Southern Migrant, Migrant and Emperor - but the first Brown, Norfolk and Common Hawkers were found, all flying earlier than usual. Due to an early spring I was too late for Ruby Whiteface. The species that I did see were all very well appreciated and one, the Sedgling, was only discovered at a new site by Martin in the week before my visit.

Despite missing some species this was an excellent tour with records of 41 species, that I highly recommend it and Martin will be running the tour again in 2015. I booked through

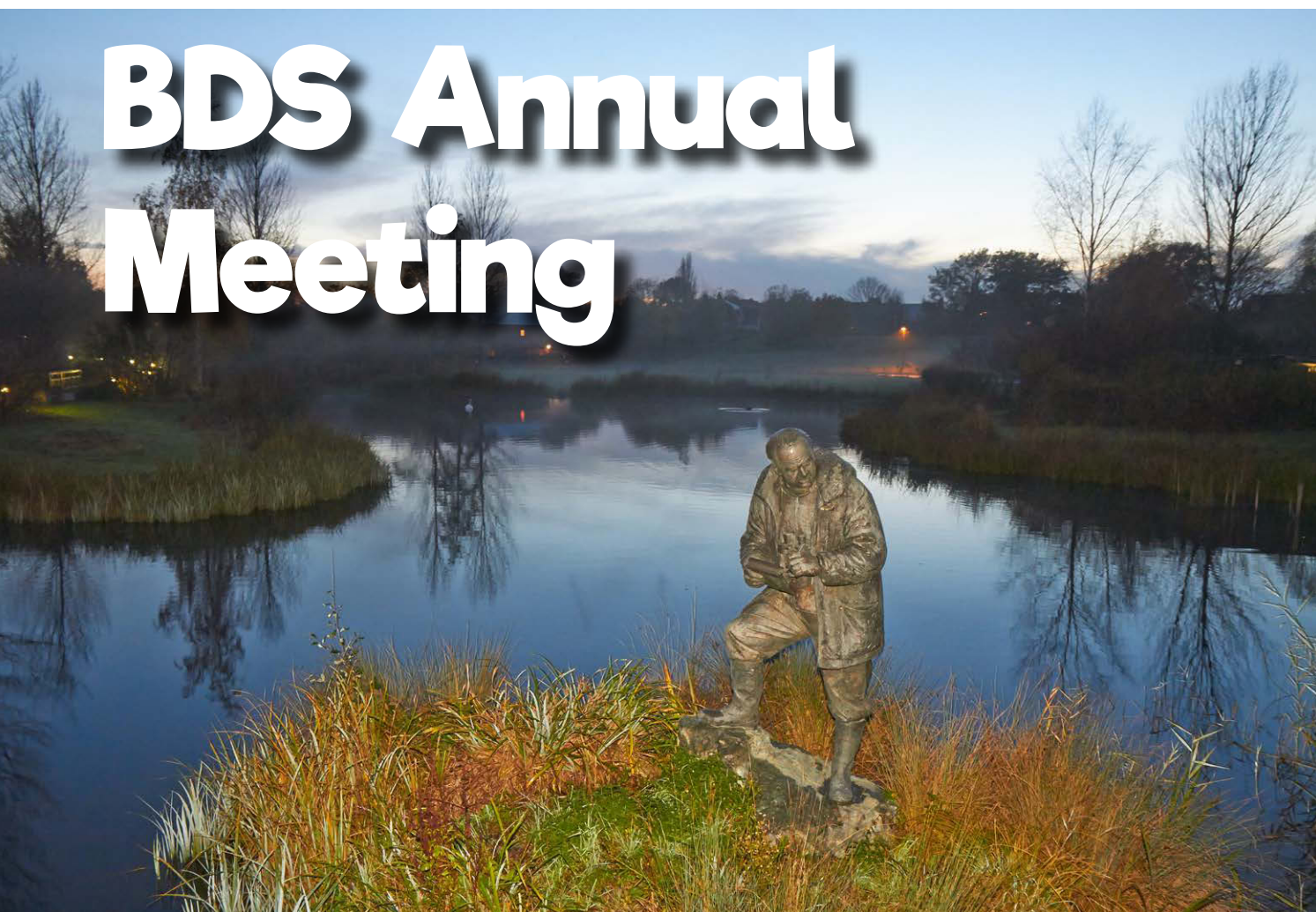
www.ecotours-worldwide.com but the tour can also be booked through Arnika Travel at [arnikatravel.com](http://arnikatravel.com). **DN**



**Top left: *Coenagrion lindenii*; Top right: *Aeshna affinis*; Bottom left: *Coenagrion lunulatum* (male); Bottom right: *Coenagrion lunulatum* (female)**



# BDS Annual Meeting



**The entrance of the WWT London site, at dusk with a statue of founder Sir Peter Scott. All photographs by Mark Tyrrell.**

## **Mark Tyrrell gives a run down of the 2014 BDS Annual Meeting (renamed from Members' Day), held at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, London, on 15 November.**

The 2014 Annual Meeting (previously known as Members' Day) was held at the amazing Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust London site, in Barnes south west London. For some reason, I chose to drive there rather than take the train which would have been much more sensible, and while I did enjoy the trip across the impressive Hammersmith Bridge, feeling it wobble every time a car passed was a bit disconcerting. Around 100 members attended the day and were treated to a fantastic variety of presentations, as well as great weather for mid November. The entertainment wasn't limited to the speakers though, as we were joined by a flock of Parakeets flying from tree top to tree top just outside

the meeting room, squawking all day long. Although I'm not much of a birder, I did managed to add Bewick Swans to my list of species when a short walk during lunch took me to a number of small ponds where a couple were busy preening themselves.

After an introduction from BDS President David Chelmick, **Richard Bullock** of the WWT opened proceedings with an **Introduction to the London Wetlands Centre**. The WWT, founded by Sir Peter Scott, runs 10 wetlands centres, covering over 3000 hectares. Twenty dragonfly species have been recorded at the London site, with breeding records for 15. Important species include the Hairy Dragonfly and Small Red-eyed Damselfly

which first bred in 2002.

**Vincent Kalkman** then gave an overview of his work on **A European Atlas of Odonata**, from the seeds of an idea planted in 1986, before the era of e-mails, PCs and German unification, to its near completion. Along the way, books by Askew in 1988 and Dijkstra & Lewington in 2006 containing distribution guides, have made major contributions to knowledge, which will be enhanced by this publication in the coming year. This exciting project has clearly taken many years and is a great example of how collaboration across national boundaries can make for a successful project, even if several European countries actually don't like each other very much (Vincent's







**Top Left: The Parakeets that kept us entertained with their squawking**

**Top Right: A giant Southern Hawker on the roof of a gazebo .**

**Bottom Left: A couple of Bewicks Swans**

**Bottom Right: Lunch overlooking a pond during the mild November weather.**

words, not mine!). Vincent presented us with a number of challenges based on the analysis of the records, with questions like: which European species have shown the greatest decline in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (*Nehalemia speciosa* – Pygmy Damselfly and *Leucorrhinia albifrons* – Dark White-faced Darter); which European species have the widest range (*Platynemesis acutipennis* – Orange Featherleg and *Brachytron pratense* – Hairy Dragonfly). Surprisingly, the European country with the richest diversity is Russia with 104 species, followed by France with 91. We are also in for some changes to genus, where it has been concluded that *Aeshna mixta* (Migrant Hawker) and *A. affinis* (Southern Migrant Hawker) should not actually belong to the *Aeshna* genus. Vincent concluded with a discussion on species likely to be added to the UK list within a few years. Soon we may see breeding populations of *Sympetrum meridionale*

(Southern Darter) and *Leucorrhinia rubicunda* (Ruby White-faced Darter) among others. The question is, are the UK ready for this forthcoming invasion?

Moving from the future European atlas, to our own, after 13 years of recording, and over 1,000,000 records, the BDS finally published the National Atlas in 2014. Producing this atlas presented a number of challenges and **Steve Cham** gave one of his usual informed talks on what he wanted to call **The Trials and Tribulations of Producing the National Atlas**.

Unsurprisingly for a project of this size, a number of problems beset the atlas ranging from simple nomenclature to many questions raised by the analysis of the data. We had already found out from Vincent Kalkman that the Norfolk Hawker may be reclassified as *Euroaeshna isosceles*, but what is the correct spelling of its scientific name? Is it *isosceles*, or *isoceles*? And what

about its English name – should it now be called the Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent and Cambridgeshire Hawker? Steve showed maps that demonstrated changes in species diversity between this atlas and the previous one. However, the patterns matched graphs showing changes in recording intensity. So, are we seeing genuine changes in species distribution or just increases in recording? Epitomising the analysis problems was the status of the Brown Hawker. A gut feeling among many recorders was that it is increasing its range and becoming more common. A simple analysis agreed with this, however the statistical test run by the BRC showed a decline. Why are the commoner species showing a decline yet the rarer species showing an increase? These and other complex questions need to be resolved before the next atlas.

I have a lot of respect for the Dragonfly Project where my visits





to its first incarnation, The National Dragonfly Biomuseum in my home County and walks around Woodwalton Fenn hosted by the Project were instrumental in the development of my passion for dragonflies. Now that it has been absorbed into the BDS, **Ruary Mackenzie-Dodds** gave us an insight into the **History of the Dragonfly Project**. From a dragonfly landing on Ruary in 1985, to a realisation of extensive habitat loss in the 1980's and an opportunity to develop land owned by Miriam Rothschild at Ashton Water in Northamptonshire, several years of hard work created a sanctuary specifically designed for dragonfly conservation. A four month sabbatical from work transformed Ruary from the hardened businessman to dedicated conservationist, and by 1994 sixteen dragonfly species were resident. The problem with dragonflies has always been that poor weather results in no activity, so an indoor facility was required to educate visitors when not a lot was happening outside, and so was born the National Dragonfly Biomuseum at Ashton Mill, which was opened in 1996 by TV wildlife presenter Chris Packham, starting a longstanding relationship that survives to this day. This is where the now infamous larval feeding show first received public viewing. An invitation to Highgrove House to advise Prince Charles soon followed. Expiration of the lease on the Mill prompted a change of direction and the volunteers reformed as the Dragonfly Project hosting walks around Woodwalton Fenn. Difficulties on site at the Fenn made it unsuitable as a long-term home and plans for a permanent home at Wicken Fenn, with the help of Adrian Coulston, soon became a reality. Since its inception, the mission of the Sanctuary, Museum and Project has been raising public awareness of dragonflies. This was distinctly different from the BDS, however in 2012 the BDS added this to their mission statement, allowing the organisations to come under one umbrella.

Despite the program listed in DN66, we weren't subjected to re-runs of last year's talks by Dave Smallshire and Georg Ruppell [*Ooops, sorry for that – Ed*]. Instead, a break for the AGM followed by lunch, and the chance to wander around the site, watch the parakeets or simply catch up with old



**Christophe Brouhard shows his exuvia key to the Smallshires.**

friends neatly lead into the afternoon session.

For a presenter and their audience, the first session after lunch is always difficult, so in an inspired piece of scheduling we were kept enthralled by the pan-European coach trip undertaken by **Christophe Brouhard**. **Photographing and studying dragonfly larvae** was the title, but what we witnessed was a mammoth tour of Europe, collecting stunning images of larvae and exuviae for a new European key. I could tell that the audience were stunned by this talk from the number of gasps and oohs following the photographs Christophe presented. Not that I am at all jealous of the thought of spending weeks travelling to the best dragonfly sites in Europe, and witnessing and photographing 1000's of insects and exuviae! Who would believe that in 2010, publishers turned down the idea for this book because there was no market for it!

Bringing us back to home territory, **John Luck** introduced us to the **Wealdon Dragonflies**. This area covers the counties of Hants, Sussex, Kent and Surrey – some of the hottest counties for dragonflies in the UK. The project set out to study the five key species in this region – Scarce Chaser, Scarce Emerald Damselfly, Variable Damselfly, Common Club-tail and Brilliant Emerald. Many new discoveries were made, particularly with the Scarce Chaser which was recorded in new areas. Looking at why they had been missed, it was soon realised that

they were on private land and no one had bothered to ask for permission to survey the land, so the important message from this talk was to go out there, meet the landowners and talk to them. After all, is it better to return to the same site over and over, recording the same species, or visit a new site and make new discoveries?

To round off, what for me was one of the best Annual Meetings, was BDS President **David Chelmick** with his usual captivating and engaging style, this time with the slightly dubious title of **Blue-tails – why bother with sex?** Blue-tailed Damselflies are one of those species that no one seems too interested in; when it came to asking for a species author for the atlas, the request was greeted with plenty of coughs, splutters and "oh I'm already working on so-and-so and can't possibly do it justice". This rather special genus have some interesting features though: the variety of female colour forms make them rather unique; they are one of the few zygopteran species that oviposit alone; in some species, for example *Ischnura rubilio*, mating only occurs in the immature phase; some species live and breed in water >40degrees C; and mating typically lasts for 7 hours, which is the equivalent of 3 months in their lifetime. I for one find them an amazing species.

Looking at the BDS Hot News pages, Common Darters were still flying after the meeting, although for many attendees the season had finished until April 2015. Can't wait!

**DN**



## Dordogne Dragonflies & Wildlife

Saturday 4 – Friday 10 July 2015

This will be our fourth consecutive dragonfly holiday in the beautiful Dordogne region of south-west France, concentrating on the superb range of species found here, and led by entomologist and dragonfly expert Dick Askew 'Dragonflies of Europe' and naturalist Dave Simpson who both live locally.

On previous holidays we have recorded up to 40 of the 60 or so dragonfly species found in Dordogne, including Violet Dropwing, Large Pincertail, Western Spectre, Orange-spotted Emerald, White and Orange Featherlegs and a host of British species. We will visit a range of wetland habitats: streams, ponds, lakes, fens, a canal and the great River Dordogne itself plus adjacent forest and grasslands.



Plenty of time will be given to examining specimens, to photography, and to marvelling at the rich biodiversity of this lovely region. We will discover wildlife that you may have heard about but never seen. Butterflies and moths are plentiful and the limestone and sandstone habitats support a wonderful array of flowers, birds and other vertebrates and insect species.



For more information contact The Travelling Naturalist (tel. 01305 267 994) or visit the website ([www.naturalist.co.uk](http://www.naturalist.co.uk)) where trip reports can be downloaded.

**Holiday Price: £1,295**



## Dragonflies as Art

These amazing dragonfly sculptures are by California-based artist Dale Evers.

To see more of Dale's work, visit [www.daleeversstudio.com](http://www.daleeversstudio.com)





# REGUA



## The world's best dragonfly hotspot?

**How many dragonfly species does it take to make the world's best hotspot?**

**The REGUA reserve in Brazil has a whopping 199 recorded species, which, as *Dave Smallshire* explains must make it the top spot.**

Tom Kompier is a Dutch diplomat currently working in Vietnam. A few years ago his interest switched from birds to dragonflies. I met him in Bulgaria soon afterwards, although I didn't know his name at the time. He directed my grateful Naturetrek group to our first Black Pennant *Selysiothemis nigra*. A man of impressive energy and determination, Tom decided that cataloguing the dragonfly fauna of an area of remnant Atlantic rainforest in Brazil would be a worthwhile project. Thus began his two-year mission during 'holidays' based at the Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu (REGUA), about 70 kilometres north of Rio de Janeiro. His starting point was a paper by Graham Vick and Dave Chelmick, who had identified 44 species during a trip to the reserve in 2000.

REGUA, established in 2001 to protect the remaining forests of the Guapiaçu valley, is easily accessible from Rio and boasts both research facilities and a superb lodge near the edge of a large wetland. It has become

well-known by birders seeking the many rare endemic species found in the highly-fragmented and threatened Mata Atlântica rainforest. A chance encounter between Andy Swash and Tom's girlfriend at REGUA in 2013 finally resulted in Tom agreeing to co-lead the first dragonfly tour there with me this January. Our 16-strong group included several BDS members, plus others from Denmark, France and the US.

An article in The Times last year by Simon Barnes described REGUA as 'the best dragonfly hotspot' on the basis of Tom's findings: the list for the Serra dos Orgaos region stood at an amazing 199 species. This area includes pristine mountain streams, old fish ponds, lowland rivers and various other wetlands, all within a two-hour journey of the lodge. The lakes close to the lodge abound with dragonflies: on day 1 we saw an amazing 42 species here in our first three hours! That's the equivalent of seeing all of Britain's established breeding species - mind-blowing! Tom



had already produced a pictorial guide to 39 common species around the REGUA wetland, which proved invaluable, and had provided our group with an e-version of his almost-completed book on the dragonflies of Serra dos Orgaos.\* For the English-speakers, new vernacular names were devised for many of the species. This inevitably triggered debates about the use of English versus scientific names (my experience is that English names are easier to remember and that the pronunciation of scientific names is so variable around the world as to render them often unintelligible, compounded by the tendency of people to omit the name of the genus).

It was hard work as new species came thick and fast in the first few days (and keeping pace with Tom was also a challenge!). We visited beautiful and slightly cooler - but still hot - mountains where many species were different to those just a few miles away in the lowlands. Some of the highlights were the impossibly long Amalia Helicopter *Mecistogaster amalia*, three species of Bromeliad Guards *Leptagrion* (breeding in phytotelmata - rainwater that gathers in bromeliads), the Magnificent Megadarnier *Staurophlebia reticulata* (a huge Aeshnid), 13 species of Clubtail (Gomphid) and a full set of Threadtails (Protoneuridae). The last group included the Regua Pincertip *Forcepsineura n. sp.*, which Tom discovered at the REGUA wetland. Sadly, we missed what was dubbed 'Tom's Darnier' *Castoraeschna n. sp.*, but no-one complained! Many of the Libellulids were stunningly beautiful, topped by two species with pigmented wings: Red-tailed Blackwing *Diastotops obscura* and Clearspot Bluewing *Zenithoptera lanei*. The latter flashed its bright blue upperwings frequently before closing its wings to rest - something I've never seen before in an Anisopteran.

The isolation of the Atlantic forest mountains has resulted in a good number of endemic dragonflies, as well as birds. At the edge of one swampy lake we found a few Ivory-tailed Bluetip *Minagrion ribeiroi* at the only known location for this species, which is threatened by a new reservoir, and as a bonus the second Brazilian record ever of Attenuate Sylph *Macrothemis extensa*. Within a week the group had seen three-quarters of the dragonfly fauna, and raised the total to 200 species. Our final tally for the fortnight

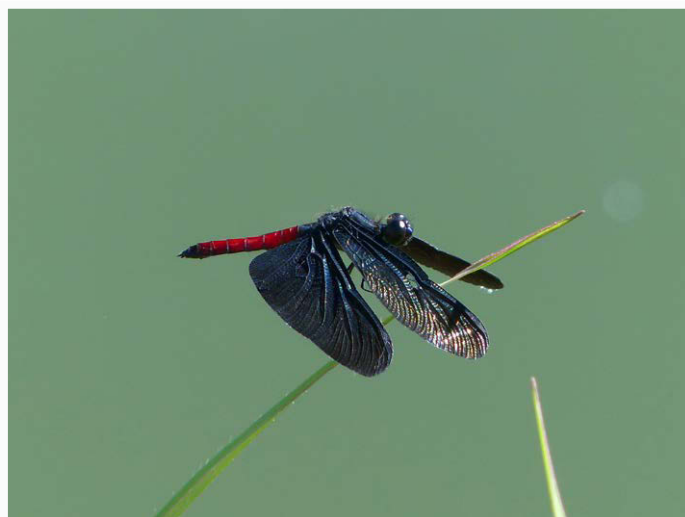
was no less than 166 species, and the faunal total had been raised to 203!

Maybe there will prove to be more diverse dragonfly faunas within a similar-sized area, but for the time being REGUA is the world's best dragonfly hotspot in my book!

For further details of REGUA, including the leaflet illustrating its commoner dragonflies and visiting details, see [www.regua.co.uk](http://www.regua.co.uk).

\* Details of how to obtain a copy of Tom's fully-illustrated field guide, *Dragonflies of Serra dos Orgaos*, have not been finalised at the time of writing; please contact Dave Smallshire if you are interested in acquiring a copy

**DN**



**Opposite:** REGUA wetland. The group saw 42 species at the restored REGUA wetland in their first three hours!

**Opposite inset:** Flame-tailed Pondhawk

*Erythemis peruviana* is one of several stunning Libellulids found at ponds

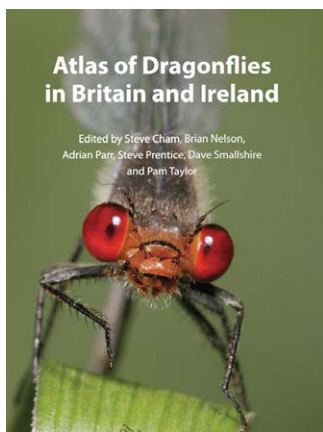
**Top:** Red-tailed Blackwing *Diastotops obscura*, male. Males disappear from their territories in the afternoon heat.

**Middle:** Clearspot Bluewing *Zenithoptera lanei*, male. Bluewings perch with their wings raised, flapping them down periodically to flash stunning blue

**Bottom:** Amalia Helicopter *Mecistogaster amalia*. This species are almost a handspan in length



# Reviews



## Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland

Edited by Steve Cham, Brian Nelson, Adrian Parr, Steve Prentice, Dave Smallshire and Pam Taylor.  
Published by the Field Studies Council.  
280 pp, hardback.

Price £32

ISBN 978 1 906698 49 2

Review by Ashley Beolen

As regular readers of my blog will know I love Dragonflies, and locally I have a fair understanding of where to see different species, but on a national scale I must admit to being not so clued up. So when I was offered the chance to review the Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland for Fatbirder I jumped at the chance. To be able to review the British Dragonfly Society's flag piece book was an opportunity not to be missed.

With 280 pages filled with brilliant, useful and in-depth information and packed full of loads of amazing photos, this book is a must for any dragonfly enthusiast, especially those looking for detailed information on locations and distribution of our Odonata.

The Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland starts off with detailed information covering a great range of topics; environmental factors, a huge section on Dragonfly habitat, recording and data collection, mapping the data, Trends in the status of Dragonflies, Phenology,

We then move into the meat of the book in the form of the individual species accounts. Each species recorded in the UK and Ireland has some sort of coverage and only those that are

extremely rare (1 or 2 records) don't have at least a couple of pages (these are covered in the other species section following the species accounts).

Each individual species account in the Atlas covers the same main elements, firstly a small identification piece with a stunning photo of the species (not an account you should really rely on for identification though, so I'd recommend a good field guide), then details on distribution, a map of the British Isles (with markers for locations), Habitat details, conservation and status threats and finally national trends.

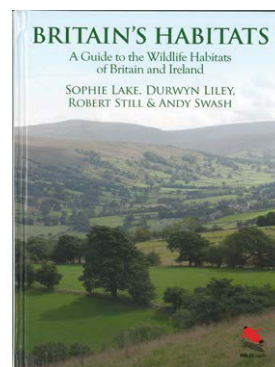
The immense amount of work that has gone into the production of this incredible volume should not be underestimated. The editors have done a sterling job, sifting through the reams of dragonfly records and putting together a book that any Dragonfly enthusiasts should hurry out and purchase.

The detailed information packed into the Atlas makes for interesting reading, learning what is affecting our odonata lets us know what is affecting the rest of our planet! And as Dragonfly enthusiasts knowing where to see which species gives us all a chance of recording these amazing creatures (it could also lead to more species being recorded).

If you have a love for Dragonflies and damselflies, like I do, then this book really is a must have. Jam packed with as much information as you will need (until the next update!) to fully appreciate the habitats and distribution of these wonderful creatures. **DN**

This review appears on Ashley Beolen's blog [www.viewsfromanurbanlake.co.uk](http://www.viewsfromanurbanlake.co.uk) and is reproduced with permission.

**Available now from the BDS Shop, price £32 + £3 p&p. See back page.**



## Britain's Habitats – a Guide to the Wildlife Habitats of Britain and Ireland

by Sophie Lake, Durwyn Liley, Robert Still & Andy Swash

Published by Princeton WildGuides

Price: £27.95

ISBN: 978-0-691-15855-6)

Review by Henry Curry

This lavishly illustrated photographic guide provides a comprehensive overview of the natural history and conservation landscape of Britain and Ireland. It's a perfect guide if you travel in Britain and is essential reading for wildlife enthusiasts, naturalists and ecologists. There are individual sections covering over 70 key habitat types, under 10 main headings, depicted in nearly 700 colour photographs taken round Britain and Ireland in all seasons. Details and pictures of key species which are associated with the different habitats are included, together with current information and maps on the distribution and importance of each type. There is also information about the key nature conservation designations and different systems of habitat classification.

Of particular interest to those interested in dragonflies is the 50+ pages, which is a sizeable chunk of this book, devoted to Wetlands and Freshwater habitats. Here you find detailed descriptions of twenty habitat types, lists of similar habitats, their origins and development, conservation, and tips of what species to look for, including many references to Odonata.

All in all this is a marvellous book at a very reasonable price that I thoroughly recommend, and though I doubt that it's practical to use this volume 'in the field', it nevertheless fully lives up to its description as a Field Guide, containing a wealth of information enabling you to identify habitat types and understand their evolution and importance. **DN**



# BDS BUSINESS

## Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, WWT London, November 2014

1. Notice of the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM was published in Dragonfly News 66.

2. Mark Tyrrell was appointed Minutes recorded, seconded by Heather Twinn.

3. Adoption of the agenda was proposed by Bill Wain and seconded by David Hepper.

4. Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> AGM were published in Dragonfly News 66. Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Mick Parfitt and seconded by Sue Parfitt.

5. Apologies for absence were received by: V.Perrin, T.Beynon, J.Lucas, J.Peachy, S.Prentice, C.Allan, G&G Walker, N.Anderson, D.Gennard, T.Gosling, D.Taylor, A.Brandon, D.Clarke, D.Kitching.

6. One minute's silence was held to honour deceased members: G.Edding-Cook and K.Bowerman.

7. No elections were held. The Executive have some proposed names for new Trustees, but further volunteers are welcome.

8. Greetings were sent to Honorary Members and BDS Patron, Sir David Attenborough.

9. Chairman's Report

a. New Chairman David Chelmick passed on thanks to the previous Chairman Pam Taylor.

b. Where does the BDS fit in conservation in Great Britain? The organisation is about people and ideas, the problem is we are running out of both. All of the Exec have been in place for 8-10 years, we have no Vice President and next year will need to recruit a new President too. The BDS needs people with Business, law and fund raising experience.

10. Secretary's Report

a. The first Cynthia Longfield certificate

was awarded to Tim Gosling.

Nominations for this award for 2015 are invited.

b. In October 2014, membership stood at 1623.

c. The new website and PayPal payment options have steadily increased membership, making it easier to pay subscriptions.

11. Treasurer's Report

a. The distinction between the two BDS accounts, CONSOFF and BDS is gradually blurring as we are increasingly funding work through the BDS fund.

b. The main expenditure remains the publications.

c. SNH and CCW (now NRW) are the main funders. EA funding ended and has not been renewed – at the loss of £10k p.a.

d. Steve Prentice's retirement has significantly reduced costs and means that the BDS are now in a funding balance.

e. Adoption of the Society's accounts was proposed by Peter Allan and seconded by Peter Mill.

12. Notice of the 28<sup>th</sup> AGM will be published in Dragonfly News 67.

13. Any Other Business

a. Henry Curry prompted a discussion on making Dragonfly News and the Journal either digital only or give members the option to have a digital copy rather than a printed copy. This was discussed in some depth, but no agreement was reached.

b. There being no other business, Lynn Curry proposed adjourning the AGM, seconded by David Goddard. **DN**

## Safeguarding Our Dragonflies & Damselflies ☐ A Lasting Legacy

A legacy to the British Dragonfly Society will provide a lasting gift. Dragonflies and damselflies are beautiful insects. They are spectacular creatures that have inhabited Earth for over 300 million years. With your support, by remembering the British Dragonfly Society in your will, we can safeguard our dragonflies and damselflies to provide a lasting legacy that will ensure future generations enjoy these fascinating insects.

Gifts, in wills, make a positive difference. Legacy gifts enable The British Dragonfly Society to:

Conserve dragonflies and their wetland habitats.

Conserve Nationally-Important species.

Record and monitor the distribution and populations of dragonflies.

Encourage the scientific study and research of dragonflies.

Undertake education projects.

Please consider leaving something to the BDS when you write or update your will.

If you are able to do this then please accept our thanks.

You may like to use the following wording to include this legacy:

"I give the sum of £..... to the British Dragonfly Society (Registered Charity No. 800196), 23 Bowker Way, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1PY, for its general purposes."

**Henry Curry**



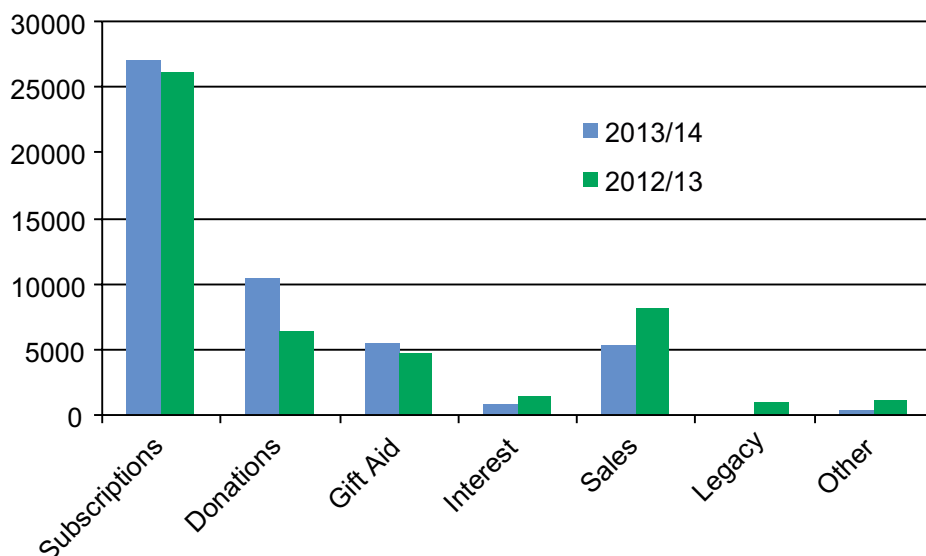


## BDS Treasurer *Brian Walker* summarises the BDS accounts.

BDS has traditionally operated two separate accounts, one to cover staff related activities where we receive some external funding and one for the Society itself. As obtaining external funding has become more difficult we have had to generate funding internally to maintain our activities and the distinction between accounts has become less important. For the moment accounts are being maintained.

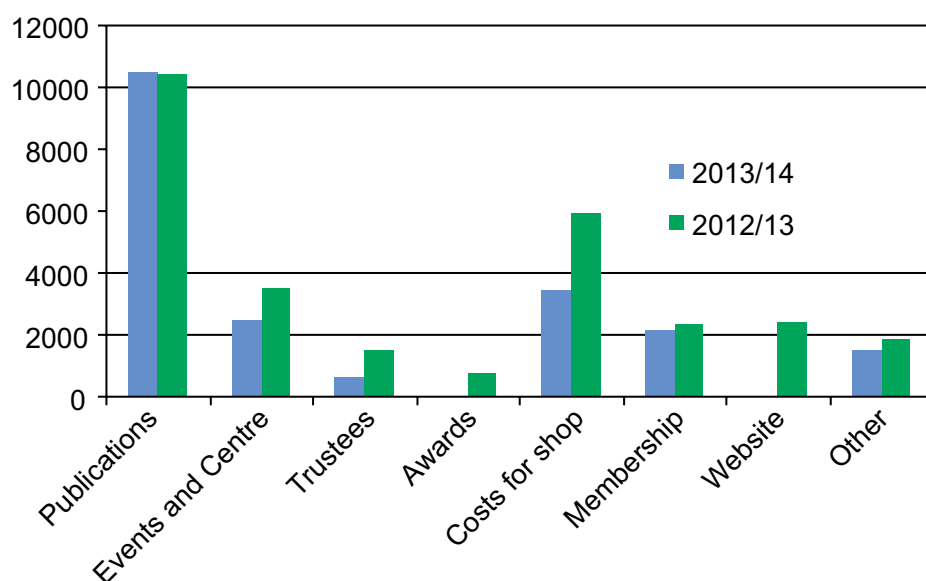
### BDS Income

The Society's direct income comes mainly through subscriptions and donations together with the associated gift aid tax rebate and profit on sales through our shop. 2013/2014 saw a reasonable growth in subscriptions and donations and we are particularly grateful to members who made donations. Shop sales were down slightly from 2012/13 when sales were boosted by the launch of the combined larvae guide.



### BDS Expenditure

Total costs in the year were much lower than in 2012/13 as we were no longer employing a Chief Executive. Other costs were similar.



### Restricted Income and Expenditure

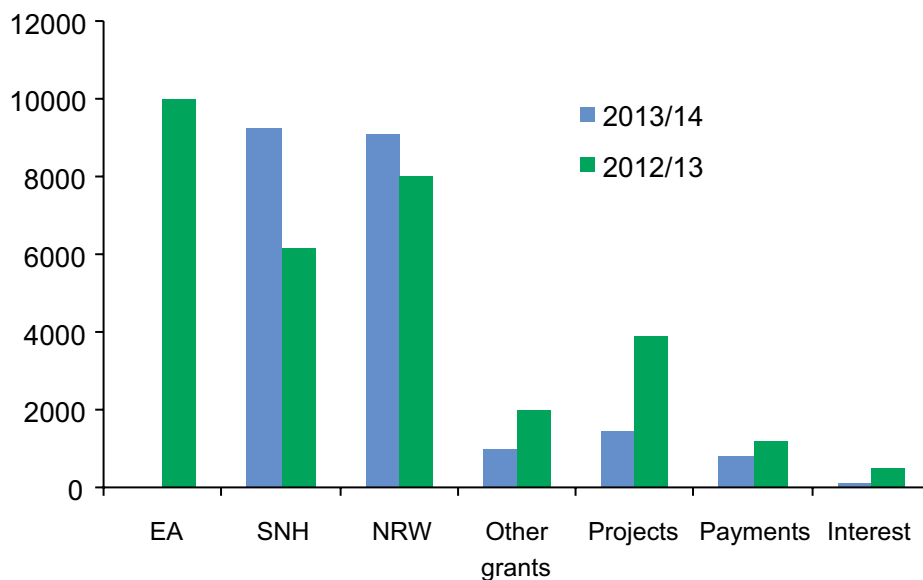
Funding reductions at Environment Agency meant that the partnership funding that we had received for a number of years came to an end, as it did for a number of other conservation bodies. We are very grateful for the past support of the EA. Funding from Scottish Natural Heritage and Natural Resources Wales increased slightly, although this is partly as a result of phasing of payments. Other smaller sources of funding declined. Natural England still provides in-kind support in the form of accommodation and services for our staff in their Telford offices, for which we are very grateful.

Staff costs are the main component of expenditure under this heading and have increased slightly following the employment of our new Scottish Officer in the latter part of the year.

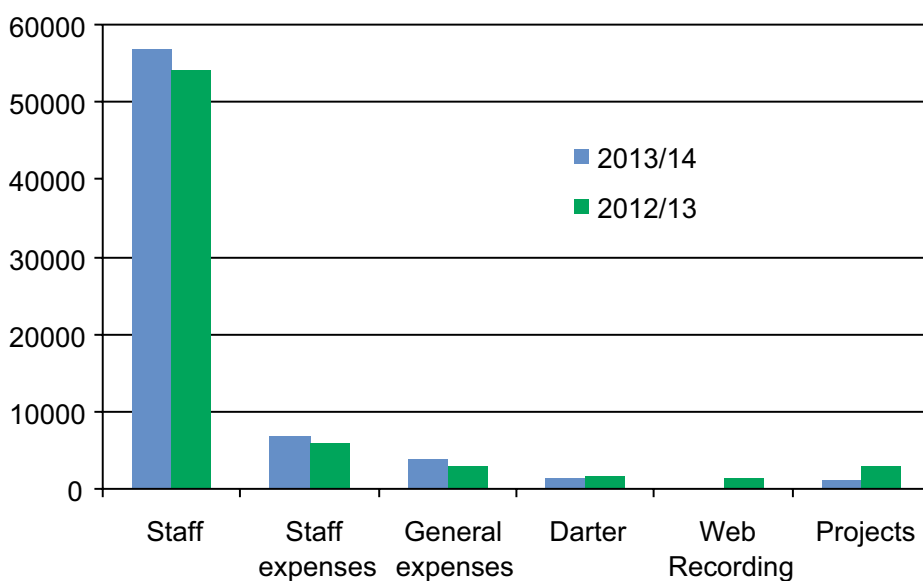


## CONSOFF Account Income

EA Environment Agency  
 SNH Scottish Natural Heritage  
 NRW Natural Resources Wales  
 (previously Countryside Council for  
 Wales)



## CONSOFF Account Expenditure



## Overall and the Future

In 2013/14 we had a deficit of £48k on our staff related activities but a surplus of £28k for the Society, giving an overall deficit of £20k. Our Dragonfly in Focus Officer retired early in 2014/15 with the publication of the Atlas and has continued on a part time basis as Records Officer. This, with other changes has reduced expenditure, and the aim is to be close to balance income and expenditure overall in 2014/15.

## Simple Balance Sheet

	£	£
Total cash at 31 March 2013	207,249	
BDS Income	48,159	
Restricted Income	21,783	
Total Income		69,942
BDS Expenditure	20,827	
Restricted Expenditure	69,707	
Total Expenditure		90,534
Total cash at 31 March 2014		187,655
Stock at 31 March 2013		4,292
Stock at 31 March 2014		6,164

## BDS Trustees &amp; Officers

Ordinary Trustees: Nigel Scott is proposed as immediate candidate to fill the vacant Trustee role. Val Perrin is the candidate proposed to replace David Goddard when his term of office expires at the end of 2015. Please let the Secretary know if you wish to vote for them or if you propose any other candidates.





# BDS Annual Meeting

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The meeting is open to everyone to attend.

Venue will be the University Campus Suffolk,  
Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich, IP4 1QJ

The day starts with coffee at 9.30 am for a 10.00 am start, and ends around 4.30pm

The full programme will be announced, when finalised,  
in the Autumn edition of Dragonfly News (No. 68) and on the BDS website.

The day will include topics of local, national and international interest.

Please note, if you have a suggestion and the name of a willing person to deliver a talk we will try and accommodate that in the programme – contact the Secretary.

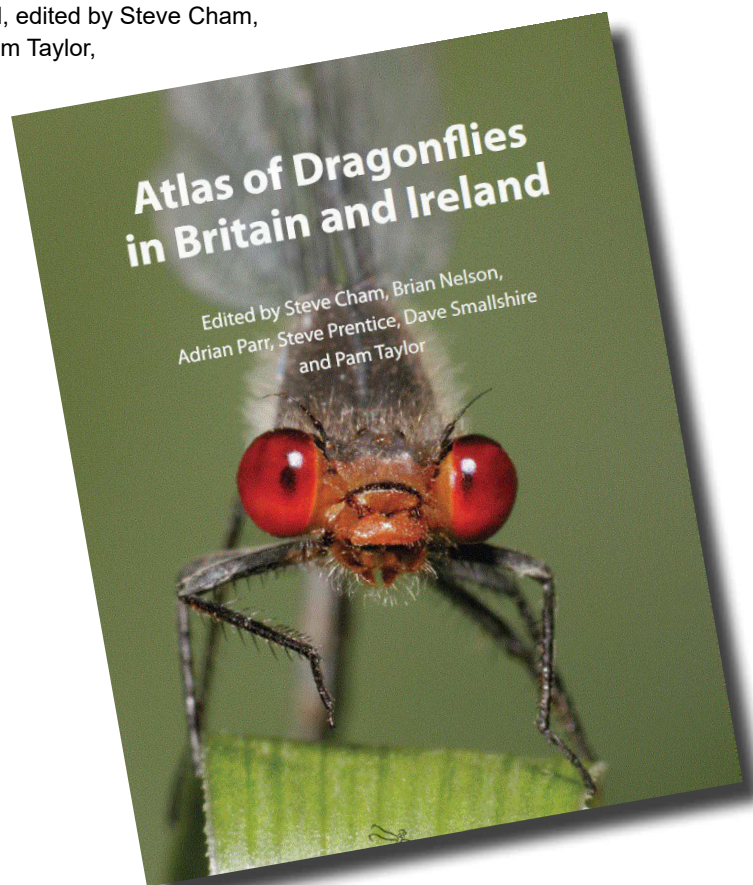
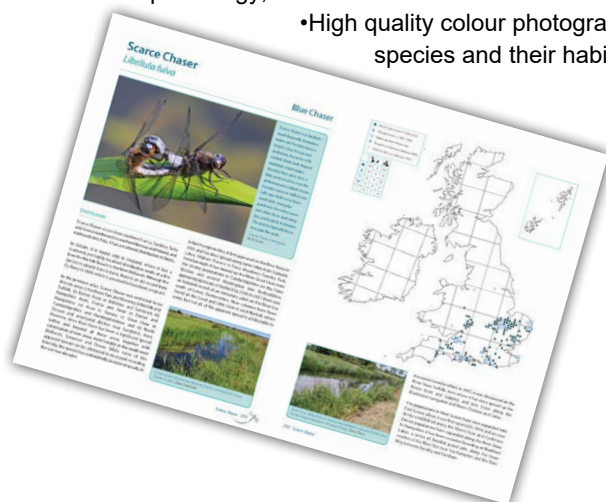
## Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland

The long awaited new Atlas of Dragonflies in Britain and Ireland, edited by Steve Cham, Brian Nelson, Steve Prentice, Adrian Parr, Dave Smallshire and Pam Taylor, was published in May 2014. This full colour, hardback 280 page book from the British Dragonfly Society maps the distribution of all 56 species of damselfly and dragonfly in Britain and Ireland.

It can be purchased for £32 + p & p from the BDS Shop (see back page), the FSC website and all good bookshops.

The atlas represents five years' work by our volunteers and partner organisations and summarises the distribution of over a million dragonfly records. It includes:

- Species accounts, including maps, for all 56 resident and immigrant species recorded in Britain and Ireland;
- Four pages devoted to each resident species;
- Sections on habitats, conservation, distribution changes and phenology;
- High quality colour photographs of all species and their habitats.



# Checklist of the Damselflies & Dragonflies of Britain & Ireland

Last Revision: 24/10/2014. in the light of taxonomic revisions. The sequence and nomenclature follow Schorr and Paulson, July 2013:

<http://www.pugetsound.edu/academics/academic-resources/slater-museum/biodiversity-resources/dragonflies/world-odonata-list>

## Table 1. Category A: resident and/or migrant species recorded since 1970

Species with well-established breeding populations and migrant species that have been recorded regularly since 1970, the latter often attempting to establish temporary breeding populations.

<b>ZYGOPTERA</b>	<b>Damselflies</b>	<b>ANISOPTERA (cont'd)</b>	<b>Dragonflies (cont'd)</b>
<b>Lestidae</b>	<b>Emerald Damselflies</b>	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Emperor Dragonfly
<i>Lestes barbarus</i>	Southern Emerald Damselfly	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Lesser Emperor
<i>Lestes dryas</i>	Scarce Emerald Damselfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Hairy Dragonfly
<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	Emerald Damselfly	<b>Gomphidae</b>	
<i>Lestes viridis</i>	Willow Emerald Damselfly	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i>	Common Club-tail
<b>Calopterygidae</b>		<b>Cordulegastridae</b>	
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>	Golden-ringed Dragonfly
<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>	Beautiful Demoiselle	<b>Corduliidae</b>	<b>Emeralds</b>
<b>Platynemididae</b>		<i>Cordulia aenea</i>	Downy Emerald
<i>Platynemis pennipes</i>	White-legged Damselfly	<i>Somatochlora arctica</i>	Northern Emerald
<b>Coenagrionidae</b>		<i>Somatochlora metallica</i>	Brilliant Emerald
<i>Ceragrion tenellum</i>	Small Red Damselfly	<b>Libellulidae</b>	<b>Darters, Chasers, Skimmers</b>
<i>Coenagrion hastulatum</i>	Northern Damselfly	<i>Leucorrhinia dubia</i>	White-faced Darter
<i>Coenagrion lunulatum</i>	Irish Damselfly	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Broad-bodied Chaser
<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	Southern Damselfly	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	Scarce Chaser
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	Azure Damselfly	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	Four-spotted Chaser
<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	Variable Damselfly	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Black-tailed Skimmer
<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i>	Dainty Damselfly	<i>Orthetrum coerulescens</i>	Kelled Skimmer
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	Black Darter
<i>Erythromma najas</i>	Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i>	Yellow-winged Darter
<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>	Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Red-veined Darter
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	Ruddy Darter
<i>Ischnura pumilio</i>	Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> *	Common Darter
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	Large Red Damselfly		
<b>ANISOPTERA</b>	<b>Dragonflies</b>		
<b>Aeshnidae</b>	<b>Hawkers</b>		
<i>Aeshna affinis</i>	Southern Migrant Hawker		
<i>Aeshna caerulea</i>	Azure Hawker		
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	Southern Hawker		
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	Brown Hawker		
<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	Common Hawker		
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	Migrant Hawker		
<i>Anaciaeschna isoceles</i>	Norfolk Hawker		

\* - includes dark specimens in the north-west, formerly treated as a separate species *Sympetrum nigrescens* **Highland Darter**

## Table 2. Category B: vagrant species

Since 1998 records of these species have been assessed by the Odonata Records Committee.

<b>ZYGOPTERA</b>	<b>Damselflies</b>	<b>ANISOPTERA (cont'd)</b>	<b>Dragonflies (cont'd)</b>
<b>Lestidae</b>	<b>Emerald Damselflies</b>	<b>Libellulidae</b>	<b>Darters, Chasers, Skimmers</b>
<i>Sympecma fusca</i>	Winter Damselfly	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> †	Scarlet Darter
<b>ANISOPTERA</b>	<b>Dragonflies</b>	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	Large White-faced Darter
<b>Aeshnidae</b>	<b>Hawkers</b>	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Wandering Glider
<i>Anax ephippiger</i>	Vagrant Emperor	<i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>	Banded Darter
<i>Anax junius</i>	Green Darter	<i>Sympetrum vulgatum</i>	Vagrant Darter
<b>Gomphidae</b>			
<i>Gomphus flavipes</i>	Yellow-legged Club-tail		

\*\* - has bred. † - has bred in the Channel Islands.

## Table 3. Category C: former breeding species not recorded since 1970

Any further records of these species will be assessed by the Odonata Records Committee.

<b>ZYGOPTERA</b>	<b>Damselflies</b>	<b>ANISOPTERA</b>	<b>Dragonflies</b>
<b>Coenagrionidae</b>		<b>Corduliidae</b>	<b>Emeralds</b>
<i>Coenagrion armatum</i>	Norfolk Damselfly	<i>Oxygastra curtisii</i>	Orange-spotted Emerald

## Guidelines for Contributors

All material should be sent to the Editor at the address on the inside front cover. If in doubt, please contact the Editor to discuss potential contributions and to advise on presentation and format. By contributing to **Dragonfly News** you give permission for the work to be used in other ways with the same attribution including reproduction on the BDS web site. All contributions on any aspect of the British and Irish dragonfly fauna are welcome for consideration at any time. Contributions on continental European and other species are also considered for inclusion. Contributions by naturalists based in Britain or Ireland travelling overseas are also welcome.

Articles requesting information or providing news of forthcoming events are welcome. The editor is happy to receive material by email or CD, preferably in MS WORD (DOC file extension, not DOCX) or txt format. Typed material requiring rekeying is less welcome (unless very short!) but will still be considered. The Editor reserves the right to make changes without prior reference to the author. Please provide contact details with anything you send and note the copy deadlines printed on inside front cover if you want something to appear in a particular issue. Photographs should be high quality jpg format with the quality setting at its highest, please do not embed in a document as this compromises quality. If e-mailing via AOL, please compress (zip) the image first.





When ordering please include your name, address and telephone number. Postage prices are indicated, but if you are ordering more than one item the highest postage price only (within reason) should be paid. Please allow at least 28 days for delivery. Cheques should be made payable to: British Dragonfly Society.

Clothing	Colour	size	price	p&p
BDS logo T-shirt	grey, royal blue, emerald green	Small	£7.00	£2.00
BDS logo T-shirt	grey	Medium	£7.00	£2.00
T-shirt with 3 coloured logo	Natural	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£7.00	£2.00
Ruddy Darter T-shirt	White	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£10.00	£2.00
Golden Ringed Dragonfly T-shirt	Natural	S, XXL	£10.00	£2.00
Polo shirt	Bottle Green	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£12.50	£2.00
Rugby Shirt	Blue	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£18.00	£2.00
Hooded Sweatshirt	Navy Blue	S,M,L,XL, XXL	£15.00	£2.50
BDS logoed Sweatshirt	Grey with black logo	Large	£13.75	£2.50
BDS logoed Sweatshirt	Grey with embroidered logo	S,M,L,XL,XXL	£13.75	£2.50
Ruddy Darter Sweatshirt	Green	S,M,XL,XXL	£15.00	£2.50
Golden Ringed Dragonfly Sweatshirt	Beige	XXL	£15.00	£2.50
Base ball Cap	Natural		£6.50	£1.50
Bush Hat	Sand or Olive Green		£9.50	£2.00



Books & DVDs	Price	p&p
Field Guide to the larva and exuviae of British Dragonflies	£10.00	£2.00
Spinning Jenny and Devils Darning Needles by Jill Lucus	£5.00	£1.50
Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe	£21.95	£2.50
Dragonflies of Hampshire	£10.00	£0.00
The Dragonflies of Europe (revised edition 2004)	£25.00	£2.50
Dragonflies by Philip Corbet and Stephen Brooks	£20.00	£3.00
Dragonflies and Damselflies of Hertfordshire	£10.00	£2.00
The Dragonflies of Essex	£15.00	£2.50
Dragonflight by Marianne Taylor	£14.00	£2.00
Dragonfly by David Chandler and Steve Cham	£12.00	£2.50
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